

**THE NATIONAL**

Technology  
PERIODICAL DEPARTMENT

# Wool Grower

VOLUME XXIX

JULY, 1939

NUMBER 7

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**Creep Feeding of Spring Lambs**

•

**Progress in Shrinkage Tests  
Of Growers' Clips**

•

**Those Kentucky Lambs**

•

**June Lamb Prices**



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The above Slogan was coined by the Denver Livestock Market interests many years ago. If you follow its beckon and call, it is your assurance that your Lambs or Cattle will be properly handled to return you the highest "Net" obtainable.

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# The National Wool Grower

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F. R. Marshall, Editor

Irene Young, Assistant Editor

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# Editorial Comment

## On Sheep and Wool Affairs

### Ram Prices

THIS editorial is not a ballyhoo designed to make more money for those who breed rams for sale. Believe it or not, it is framed from the viewpoint of those who buy rams.

Prices paid for rams in recent years at auctions and private sales have not meant enough profit to ram breeders to stimulate or permit them to keep on turning out still better rams, of the quality that is needed in the production of commercial lambs and wool. The breeders have been taking their losses along with others in the sheep industry. Many of them have been unable to meet extra costs for stud stock and for carrying rams and have either quit entirely or changed to production for market.

There are not so many really top rams on the market as were being offered ten years ago. While this is true, the improvement in commercial flocks cannot go on as it should do. Breeding to produce more and better lambs and wool is the first answer to unfavorable conditions of recent years. Economy in buying sires is not justifiable if it means taking cheap rams when better ones are available.

Buying the best ones will help the best breeders to stay in business and encourage others to breed tops. As conditions get some easier, buyers of rams can serve their immediate interests by making sure of getting the best to be had. This will support the breeders and ensure the production of more good rams for future years.

### Wool Duties

FAVORABLE reports from wool markets give hope that a price level may be reached which will allow some profit to growers. By all the rules of averages and cycles, we should be entering a period of higher priced wool. The supply and demand situation suggests this also.

With domestic wool prices approximately up to import parity, the lowering of the duty would reduce by the same amount prices received by growers. The silence of the Department of State regarding trade agreements with new countries is encouraging even though there is no official statement that action is not contemplated. Late reports of demands of Australian spokesmen as to the size of cut in our wool duties that they would expect in return for giving easier access to American automobiles and lumber into their country make it appear that negotiation of another agreement in that quarter may not be imminent.

Secretary Wallace has finally been authorized to lose government money in selling cotton to foreign countries at world prices or lower, while American manufacturers must pay close to loan figures of recent years, representing

pre-war parity value. One experiment in controlled economy leads to another, with no assurance that any or all of them will finally be found practical or satisfactory. Certainly the trade agreement program which was put forth five years ago as the solution of the surplus problem has proven a failure for that as well as other purposes.

### Wool Top Futures

A YEAR has passed since official control over trading in wool top futures was begun by the Commodity Exchange Administration of the Department of Agriculture. Opponents of such trading and others who felt that this futures trading, at times at least, operates to the disadvantage of growers, asked for a full, official investigation of all angles of dealing in wool futures.

Such an investigation was started in July of last year by officers of the Commodity Exchange Administration, and is expected to be completed this fall. An exhaustive study is being made of the relationship of price changes in actual wool sales and in top futures, of the extent of futures trading by various concerns, and of many other important points.

It can be supposed that there will be official corrective action for abuses in futures trading if such are found to exist. If it should be found that futures transactions are legally conducted, and at the same time have an effect that is injurious to growers or some other branch of the wool industry, the question would arise as to whether the C.E.A. is legally empowered to close the exchange.

Failure of top futures prices to advance recently while wool was advancing supports the position of those who have argued that the exchange quotations do not correctly show either current or prospective values of grease wool. As explained in the wool market report in this issue, some dealers who contracted to deliver grease wools and hedged their contracts in the top exchange have been caught in a squeeze and face serious losses. Assuming that top futures would reflect changes in grease wool prices, these concerns seemed to be protected by their hedges. If the grease wool they had agreed to deliver advanced beyond the contract price and meant a loss, then the top futures should also have advanced and returned at least a corresponding profit over their cost when purchased at the lower prices.

Strangely enough, however, the grease wools advanced and the top futures did not. And the hedge has not worked. All of which, at least, goes to show that if top futures trading really is done in accordance with law and regulations and good business ethics, the futures exchange is an unsafe place for hedging. And if a futures exchange does not furnish opportunities for safe hedging, its existence is hard to justify.

## Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939

**SENATOR SCHWARTZ'** bill, S.162, and Congressman Martin's bill, H.R.944, have both been favorably reported by the main committees to which they were originally referred, and are now upon the calendars of their respective houses. It should be recalled that Senator Schwartz' bill passed the Senate a few days before adjournment last year, but that the Martin bill was left on the calendar, although it had been favorably reported by the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

If Congress continues in session as late as is expected, it is quite probable that these bills will have been passed before adjournment. Some minor alterations were made in the bill as reported by the Senate. More extensive amendments, some of which seem to be of doubtful value, were made by the House Committee. It is practically certain that much consideration will be given the bill by the conference committee of the two houses before it reaches final form.

Meantime, the Federal Trade Commission is continuing its good work of correcting mislabeling practices under its present powers. In promulgating rules to govern the labeling of fabrics to show their rayon content, and for other purposes, the Commission has required that fibers contained in a fabric must be "conspicuously named in the order of their predominance by weight, beginning with the largest single constituent."

Last month the Commission issued a cease-and-desist order against the Superyarn Company of New York. The company was ordered to discontinue "use of the words 'tweed' or 'wool,' or any words of similar import to designate products not composed wholly of virgin wool." The Uneda Underwear Company of Brooklyn was also called upon to discontinue "use of the words 'silk,' 'wool' or 'silk and wool,' or words of similar import, to designate products not composed solely of the fibers indicated unless all the constituent fibers are conspicuously named in the order of their predominance by

## Sheepmen's Calendar

### Ram Sales

Idaho Ram Sale: Filer, August 9  
National Ram Sale: Salt Lake City, Utah, August 22-23

### Conventions

Colorado Wool Growers Association:  
Glenwood Springs, July 26-28  
Wyoming Wool Growers Association:  
Rock Springs, August 3-5  
California Wool Growers Association:  
San Francisco, September 21-22  
Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association: Ft. Worth, December 8-9

### Shows

Golden Gate International Exposition  
Sheep Show: Treasure Island, San Francisco, September 23-October 2  
Golden Gate International Exposition  
Wool Show: Treasure Island, San Francisco, September 23-October 2  
Pacific International Live Stock Exposition: Portland, October 7-14  
American Royal Live Stock Show: Kansas City, October 14-21  
Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Exposition: Omaha, October 22-28  
International Live Stock Exposition: Chicago, December 2-9  
National Western Live Stock Show: Denver, January 13-20, 1940

### Wool Auctions

J. M. Lea Wool Warehouse: San Angelo, Texas, July 18  
Merrion and Wilkins: Denver, Colo., July 24-26; Ogden, Utah, July 27-29

weight, beginning with the largest single constituent; misrepresenting the percentage of silk or wool in any product; and failing to disclose the fiber content of any rayon product or any new constituent fibers in the order of their predominance by weight beginning with the largest single constituent."

Misleading representations in the sale of men's garments were also prohibited under an order to cease and desist issued by the Federal Trade Commission against O. K. Tailoring Company, Inc., of Chicago.

The respondent company was directed to discontinue employing the unqualified word "wool" or words of similar meaning to designate fabrics or products not composed wholly of wool, "provided that in case of a fabric or product composed partly of wool and partly of other materials such words may be used as descriptive of the wool content if in immediate conjunction there also appear accurate designations of each constituent fabric or material in order of predominance by weight."

The Commission states that its order shall not be construed as permitting the

use of the unqualified word "wool" to designate or refer to any wool which is not virgin wool.

## In Memoriam

CRAWFORD MOORE

**CRAWFORD MOORE**, 67, of Boise, Idaho, died on June 17, following a long illness.

As president of the Idaho First National Bank, with its twelve branches in various parts of that state, Mr. Moore came into close contact with the members of the Idaho livestock industry and as such proved himself an understanding and very good friend. The bank, which was founded in 1867 by Mr. Moore's father, is said to be the oldest national bank west of the Rocky Mountains. Mr. Moore became its president in 1916 and held such position until his retirement a short time before his death.

Mrs. Moore and two daughters, all of Boise, Idaho, survive.

E. BLANEY

**ED BLANEY**, 64, prominent sheepman of Salt Lake City, died July 9 in a hospital at Afton, Wyoming, of injuries sustained in an automobile accident on July 6.

Press reports stated that Mr. Blaney's car left the highway about 25 miles east of Alpine and rolled 25 feet into Gray's River. Although critically injured, Mr. Blaney had presence enough of mind to keep his hand on the horn button, the noise of which caught the attention of C.C.C. workers who rescued him from his wrecked pick-up truck and brought him into Afton. Mr. Blaney could give no other reason for the accident than that the steering mechanism had failed.

Mr. Blaney, a member of the firm of Covey and Blaney for many years, operated a large sheep outfit in Wyoming, but for the last twelve years had made his home in Salt Lake City. Mrs. Blaney and two daughters survive.

## The Status of the United States Forest Service

STOCKMEN and others opposed to the transfer of the United States Forest Service to the Department of the Interior were somewhat disturbed over the language used in the closing part of the President's message to Congress which accompanied his reorganization order No. 2, transmitted on May 9. In that message, the President said, "Insofar as crops, including tree crops, are involved, there is something to be said for their retention in the Department of Agriculture. But where lands are to be kept for the primary purpose of recreation and permanent public use and conservation, they fall more logically into the Department of the Interior. I hope to offer a reorganization plan on this early in the next session."

The recent publication of correspondence which passed between the President and Senator Key Pittman of Nevada last March plainly shows that it has not been the President's intention to make any alteration in the status of the Forest Service. When the reorganization bill was before the Congress a year ago, Senator Pittman presented a motion to exempt the Forest Service from the scope of the plan which the President would be authorized to put into effect. The motion, however, was not carried.

Prior to the vote upon the new reorganization bill in the Senate this year, Senator Pittman addressed a letter to the President inquiring as to his plans or intentions in connection with the Forest Service. The President replied as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington

March 21, 1939

Dear Key:

In regard to the Forestry Bureau, I have no hesitation in telling you that I have no thought of transferring them to the Interior Department.

I am meeting with a good deal of success in getting the public lands and forestry people to work together in such a way as to prevent duplication of work and render better service to the cattlemen. I think that working along this line for some time to

come will produce results without any drastic change in organization.

Always sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt

Honorable Key Pittman  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

To the above letter from President Roosevelt, Senator Pittman, on March 21, wrote:

March 21, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

I have your personal note of March 21st, 1939, as a memorandum of your statement to me over the phone this morning.

I am very pleased to have you state that the Forestry Department will not be transferred to the Interior Department because, for nearly 40 years, the Forestry Service has progressed, improved in its service, and reached a perfect understanding with stock growers while operating under the Department of Agriculture.

I agree with you that it is advisable, if not almost necessary, that the Secretary of Agriculture, having jurisdiction over grazing on the forest lands, and the Secretary of the Interior, having jurisdiction over grazing on the other public lands, cooperate.

I take it that, when you say, "I think that working along these lines for some time to come will produce results without any drastic change in organization," you do not intend to materially change the functions of the Forest Bureau.

I say this because I will be required at some time to interpret that sentence in your letter to me. Unless this interpretation is correct, it will be my duty to the livestock industry of Nevada, which constitutes the second primary industry, to vote against the pending reorganization act. I was committed at last session to such a position, and I am so committed now. I know that you do not desire that I should violate such commitments.

With expressions of the highest esteem and regard, I am,

Sincerely,  
(Signed) Key Pittman

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

On March 25 the President replied to Senator Pittman's letter of March 21 as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington

March 25, 1939

Dear Key:

In regard to grazing in forests and public lands: It is my thought that the following can be attained by study and cooperation:

(a) Eliminate the undoubted overgrazing

which exists in some places (by no means all), both in forests and on public lands.

(b) Where in a given area there is grazing in both forests and on public lands, especially summer grazing in forests and winter grazing on public lands, the offices of the two services, if located in different places, should be put in the same place and under the same roof.

(c) Where Rangers from both services cover essentially the same territory, the range work should be consolidated, in some places the Forest Ranger acting for both Bureaus and in other cases the Public Lands Ranger working for both Bureaus.

(d) A greater uniformity in all paper work, purchases of supplies, maintenance of camps, etc., etc.

None of the above suggest in any way a change in functions.

I am sure you and I will be pleased by greater economy and efficiency, and, at the same time, that the cattle men will also be pleased.

Always sincerely,  
(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt

Honorable Key Pittman  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

## Stockyard Charges

APPLICATIONS for increased charges for selling livestock have been filed with the Packers and Stockyards Administration by Chicago commission concerns. Selling agencies at Omaha have made a similar application. No date has been set for consideration of these applications.

The Denver Stock Yards Company has also made application for an increase in yardage charges on some classes of livestock. A formal procedure regarding charges for yardage at the St. Paul market has been canceled, and it is understood that an agreement will be reached by stipulation between the yards company and the government officials.

An official hearing was to have started on June 12, concerning charges by the Los Angeles Stock Yards Company.



## Wool Used in Government Contracts

ON June 13, the War Department awarded a contract to the American Woolen Company to furnish 500,000 yards of spruce green overcoating to weigh 30 ounces to the yard. The bids ranged from \$1.12 per yard to \$1.99.

The official specifications for this contract were as follows:

**MATERIAL**—The material shall conform to the following:

**WOOL**—The wool shall be not lower in grade than 50's, U. S. Standard and shall be a suitable mixture of virgin wool and/or reworked wools and/or wool noils. The silk and/or cellulose fiber content shall not exceed 5 per cent.

**YARN**—The wool shall be well carded and evenly spun on the woolen system into a single yarn for both warp and filling.

**WORKMANSHIP**—The finished cloth shall be clean, evenly woven and free from any defects which may affect appearance or serviceability.

**COLOR**—The color shall be spruce green and shall closely match that of the standard sample. The wool shall be a blend of white and stock dyed wools and the finished cloth shall have good fastness when subjected to the following tests:

**FASTNESS TO CROCKING.**

**FASTNESS TO WEATHER**—Samples to be exposed for 10, 20, and 30 days.

**WIDTH**—Unless otherwise specified, the width, exclusive of selvage, shall be not less than 56 inches.

**PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS**—Finished material shall conform to the following requirements:

Weight (Based on linear yard of 56") (minimum)	Thread Count Per inch (minimum)		Breaking Strength (1x3x3 grab) pounds (minimum)		Weave
Ounces	Warp	Filling	Warp	Filling	
30	28	25	60	55	3/3 broken twill

(Note: Other weaves giving similar results may be approved by the contracting officer)

**FINISH**—The cloth shall be thoroughly scoured, well fulled, free from vegetable matter (carbonized, if necessary), and have the face evenly sheared. The finished cloth shall be well pressed and have a well-developed nap. The use of finishing or loading materials to increase the weight or breaking strength is prohibited.

The above specifications show that so long as this fabric had a strength of 60 pounds in the warp and 55 pounds for the filling, there was no restriction upon the proportion of reworked wools or noils that the contractor might use, though the strength test would require a large proportion of virgin wool.

This 30-ounce overcoating is to be used in the making of short mackinaw coats for workers in C.C.C. camps.

\* \* \* \*

The overcoating for regular army use is 32 ounces in weight and olive drab in color. Its specifications call for a strength of 80 pounds in the warp and not less than 65 pounds in the filling. It is also specified that the material used shall be as follows:

**MATERIAL**—Woolen yarn, composed of 55 per cent wool, grade 44's or finer, 10 per cent wool, grade 58's or finer, 35 per cent reworked wool or noils. Maximum allowable percentage of residue on boil out 2½ per cent. Broken sliver from cards and mules made from the mixture of this fabric, not exceeding 10 per cent may be added to the blend.

### Domestic Materials

The official forms for bidding on government contracts carry the following statement as to use of materials produced in the United States:

It is hereby warranted that in the event award is made to the undersigned, the unmanufactured articles, materials or supplies furnished the United States will have been mined or produced in the United States and the manufactured articles, materials and supplies will have been manufactured in the United States all from articles, materials or supplies mined, produced or manufactured, as the case may be in the United States, except as noted below or otherwise indicated in this bid.

(Note: As the materials listed below, or the material from which they are made, are not mined, produced or manufactured as the case may be in the United States in sufficient quantities, their use is permitted without regard to country of origin (unless otherwise specified herein): Bananas, Brazil nuts, cocoa, coffee, chocolate, citron, extract of vanilla, manufactured in the United States, lemon peel, plain or stuffed olives, spices, tapioca, tea, asbestos, balsa wood, china wood oil, chromium, cork, jute, kaurigum, lac, nickel, platinum, rubber, silk, sisal, tin.)

In submitting invoices of goods delivered, all successful bidders are required to sign the following certificate:

"I certify that the above bill is correct and just; that payment therefor has not been received; and that as otherwise noted, all of the articles, materials, and supplies furnished under (purchase order) (contract) No. ....; if unmanufactured articles, materials, and supplies, have been mined or produced in the United States, and if manufactured articles, materials, and supplies, they have been manufactured in the United States substantially all from articles, materials, or supplies mined, produced, or manufactured as the case may be, in the United States; and that State or local sales taxes are not included in the amount billed."

## The Queen Liked Her Wool Dress

YES, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth wore and liked her feather-weight wool dress.

No matter what other press stories you may have read or what doubts you personally may have had, the actual facts regarding the matter were given by Mrs. Roosevelt in her column, "My Day," in the New York World-Telegram of June 17:

"A further evidence of Queen Elizabeth's thoughtfulness has just come to me in a telegram from Sir Alan Lascelles. She forgot to tell me that she had worn her woolen dress at Hyde Park and found it delightful.

"This makes me realize that I have not told you that I found my woolen dress just as cool as any cotton or silk one and am going to enjoy it for months to come."

With this seal of approval stamped on the sheer wool goods for women's summer wear under temperatures so high as to be featured in the press reports of Their Majesties' visit to this country, their popularity should advance rapidly.

You know, of course, that the material for the Queen's wool dress was made by the Forstmann Company of wools grown in this country and given by the sheepmen. Mrs. Roosevelt's dress, which she wore to meet the royal couple at their arrival in Washington, was the gift of Colonial wool growers.



# 1500 TOP RAMS

To Be Sold at Auction in

THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL

## NATIONAL RAM SALE

AUGUST 22-23, 1939

UNION STOCK YARDS, NORTH SALT LAKE

Under the Management of the National Wool Growers Association

RAMBOUILLETS

HAMPSHIRE

SUFFOLKS

CORRIEDALES

PANAMAS

LINCOLNS

COTSWOLDS

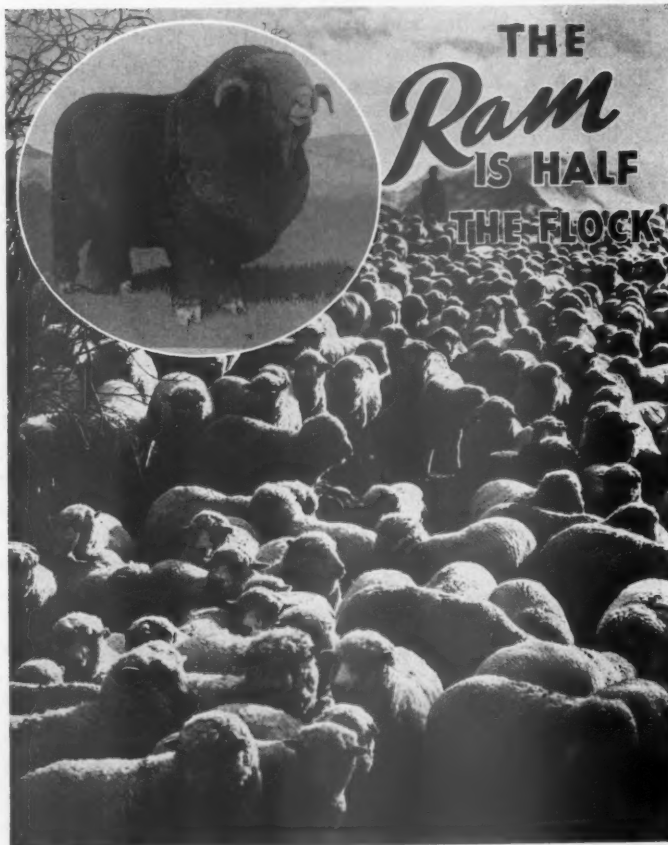
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CROSSBREDS

Single Studs

Pens of 5 Registered Rams

Pens of 10-25 Range Rams



For Catalogs, Address:

NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

509 McCornick Building, Salt Lake City, Utah

# THOSE KENTUCKY LAMBS



*A few lambs from the McCormick flock in Clark County, Kentucky; out of northwestern ewes by Southdown rams.*

LAMB shippers from the northwestern and other range states who go to the central markets have been regaled for many years with statements of the tremendous supplies and high quality of lambs marketed from Kentucky. The principal movements of lambs from that state usually coincide with the early shipments from Idaho and Washington. The stereotype story of buyers at the central markets late in May and June is that "so many Kentucky lambs are going to New York, and are dressing out so unusually high, that lambs from the Northwest can only be handled at a serious discount."

Having heard so much of this story myself, I was fully ready to accept the invitation which came to me to attend a meeting of the Kentucky lamb raisers to be held at the University at Lexington on June 13, and to talk to them about western sheep raising. I was much more interested in what I could learn than in what I could impart. While I did not get all the story, I got enough to interest me greatly, and I feel it worth while to give to the shippers and students of the lamb markets the high spots of my observations.

The official figures reported that at the first of last year Kentucky had 1,110,000 head of sheep and lambs on hand. From the same source it is shown that the number of ewes at the same time was 937,000, which makes it appear that there may have been 175,000 lambs dropped before January 1. The state was credited with having raised 1,031,000 lambs last year, which

was 110 per cent of the number of ewes. In 1938 Kentucky reported a lamb crop of 118 per cent, which counted out 1,060,000. There was a considerably smaller number of ewes bred in 1937 than for the year following. For comparative purposes it is interesting to note that the percentage of lambs raised in the 13 range states, including Texas, was 83.9 per cent for 1938.

About one million of the Kentucky ewes are owned within a radius of 65 miles around Lexington. That is considered the blue grass region proper. Ten counties alone have 500,000 sheep. These ewes are run nearly altogether on blue grass pastures, and in most cases some steers are carried on the same land. In the blue grass area only about one acre in ten is cultivated, and a large part of that is planted in tobacco.

One large farm has 7,000 ewes, and there are a few flocks running from 1,000 to 3,000. The bulk of the production comes from flocks having from 100 to 400 ewes each.

The Kentuckians buy practically all of their breeding ewes these days from other states. About 200,000 head were shipped in last year. Of these, 60,000 came from Texas and the balance from Montana, Idaho and other states. The preference seems to be growing stronger for the range-bred, crossbred ewes with either white or black faces.

Black-faced, range yearlings seem to be most in demand. Very few aged or

broken-mouthed ewes are brought in. A good many of the lamb raisers expressed a preference for the mottle-faced ewe as compared with the black-faced ewe. While it is altogether probable that these two classes of ewes have similar amounts of Hampshire blood, yet the sponsors of the mottle-faced ewe claim that she yields more wool, milks better, and stands their hot weather better. Nineteen thousand head of shorn black-faced yearlings were shipped in from Montana this spring. Others were due to arrive later. Some of the dealers and farmers are growing more interested in the idea of getting western-bred, black-faced ewe lambs delivered in the fall after being sorted out of range shipments at the central markets. This, they claim, gives them the advantage of the wool clip to go against their winter expense. What they are more interested in is having a yearling ewe well grown out and weighing around 110 pounds at the time for breeding in July.

A few lambs are dropped in December, but these come chiefly from farms that aim to get part of their crop on the Easter market. For the Easter trade this year a good many lambs were taken out at 13 cents per pound. Some of the sheepmen prefer to keep them to sell at heavier weights on later markets. The general rule and goal is to have a lamb fat enough to sell well at 120 days and a weight of 80 pounds. A few of the older lambs go out with

a little more weight, but as a rule, they are sorted out quite closely as they reach 80 pounds and taken to the near-by markets for sale.

Most of the grain used is fed in creeps to lambs of an early age. This is discontinued when flocks go out to the pastures. After walking through some of the typical blue grass pastures with a good deal of white clover, it is easy to see why neither lambs nor ewes would make good use of the grain after grass is ready.

I was told that Kentucky was not likely to increase its sheep population very greatly in the blue grass areas. In the less favored sections, the soil conservation program may mean more sheep, but that increase is not expected to be very material. It would seem that the blue grass lands would really carry larger numbers of both sheep and cattle. However, the owners prefer understocking to overstocking, and as the business is now carried on, rarely face a feed shortage at any time of year.

### *Selling the Lambs*

There used to be an old song that made inquiry as to whether you had ever seen a dream walking. Well, I can about say that I saw it in Kentucky. It was in connection with the competitive bidding for lambs. My host and guide, Professor Miller, had told me while driving around to visit some of the horse farms that over 700,000 lambs are sold each year in the principal auction markets located in Kentucky, most of them in the blue grass country. The balance are sold at the stockyards markets at Lexington and Louisville, with some at Cincinnati. While a large part of the crop goes to the New York area for final slaughter, it is rarely that any Kentucky lambs are consigned to that market. The independent and large packer buyers have been forced to come to Kentucky auctions to fill their requirements.

The sales ordinarily start shortly after the middle of May, but this year's crop was three weeks late on account of the cold weather in the early season, and the auctions were just getting well underway when I was there in the middle of June.

At the Winchester auction market, 2600 head of lambs were offered on June 15. I was told that at Paris and a few other markets there may be as many as 11,000 head sold in one day at the peak of the season. The 2600 lambs I saw sold at Winchester were put up in about 25 lots. A few bunches had a full double-deck car in them. Lambs sold in car lots have usually been graded out of truckloads brought in by a number of farmers. Two or three grades are made, and a record kept of the number coming from each farmer that goes into each lot, and returns made on that basis. Other farmers having from 50 to 150 head of lambs that have been carefully picked out at home usually sell their offerings separately. On the day mentioned, lots

sold all the way from \$9.75 to \$11.00 per hundred.

The strangest and most interesting thing of all was to see the auctioneer going from pen to pen followed by a group of ten buyers representing different firms, and apparently all of them wanting and needing lambs. At least most of them bid on each lot.

Very few of the lambs needed to be in trucks for over 40 minutes to reach the sale. They are taken from their mothers in the morning and weighed at the time of unloading at the auction market. These weights are the ones upon which the buyers must settle. When the auctioneer goes into the pen that is to be sold, the weight is announced. There is some complaint on this score, but presumably the buyers



*A flock of range-bred, crossbred ewes by Hampshire sires at Hartland Farm where about 1000 ewes are kept.*



*Lambs out of Hampshire cross northwestern ewes by Southdown rams at the Henry Besuden Farm, Winchester, Kentucky. Photographed June 14, 1939.*



equalize things by adjusting their bids to take care of the extra fill that the lambs have when they are weighed.

I was told that one of the two largest lamb buyers refused to buy at the auctions because of the method of weighing, and was trying to obtain as many Kentucky top lambs as possible at stockyard points, or by private treaty. However, when I asked Professor Miller to ascertain for me the firms represented in the bidding at the Winchester sale that we attended, he came back and said all four of the larger packers were represented, together with six independent firms. Apparently the big Chicago concern that objected to the method of weighing decided that it had to come to the auctions to get its share of the lambs. Practically all of the buyers are resident Kentuckians. They seem to be excellent judges of lambs, and the fact that many of them have been retained by the same packing concern for many years shows that they must know their business. With three or four sales per week at most of the 15 points, a buyer has to do some traveling and needs to be in at least one auction each day. Some concerns employ two or more buyers to cover all the sales.

There can be no doubt that grading in advance of the sale is practical and satisfactory. A few buyers indicated that they would rather buy lambs graded by a government man than to take the smaller lots of tops brought in by individual farmers. The assertion was that the government grader would not let any poor lambs into the top grade, but the individual farmer who sorted out his own stuff might have a few low dressers in a bunch that appeared to be all tops.

The good ones, though, are fully equal to the best shipments from the range country. The fact that most of them are by Southdown sires gives them a conformation and early finish that seems to be particularly in demand for the eastern trade. There are a good many seconds and a few really nondescript lambs in the sales. These are sharply discriminated against in the pricing.

What interested and intrigued me most was to see the really top lambs

bringing from 25 to 50 cents more a hundred than the other kind. This is in sharp contrast to the general practice at Chicago and other central markets in the West. The highly competitive conditions, and the number of firms buying, are responsible for this price recognition of quality. None of the buyers complained about having to buy under the rules and methods of the sale. Not all of them were after top lambs, but it was plain that each of them paid full value, and that each grower got all that he was entitled to.

The auction sale idea has become quite general as far west as Nebraska, and has started in a few places in Wyoming and Idaho. So far as I have known, very few lambs or sheep are sold in these sales. I doubt whether the eastern independent lamb killers could be persuaded to send their buyers as far west as the range country, but I will continue to dream about seeing range lambs sold under the highly competitive conditions that prevail in the Kentucky sales.

F. R. M.

## Texas Corriedale Association Formed

AS an outgrowth of the increased interest of Texas sheep breeders in Corriedales, the Texas Corriedale Sheep Association was organized at San Angelo, on June 21. H. C. Noelke, Jr., of Sheffield, was named president; G. C. Magruder of San Angelo, vice president, and E. H. Schuch, secretary-treasurer.

The object of the organization is to develop and promote the use and breeding of the Corriedale sheep in Texas through sheep shows and sales, distribution of information concerning breeding and marketing, and to encourage breeding of this type of sheep in Texas.

Membership is to be confined to bona fide regular breeders of registered or pure-bred Corriedale sheep in Texas, but any Texas breeder using Corriedale rams on ewes of any breed is eligible to become an auxiliary member of the association, who, while having

no voting power, will receive all the other benefits of regular association membership.

## Increase in Game Animals On National Forests

AN average of more than five big game animals for every square mile within national forest boundaries is reported by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in its annual big game estimates for 1939. The estimates were made during the past winter by forest rangers and other officers using skis, snow shoes, airplanes, canoes, horses, or any other means of transportation which would take them into the haunts of the big game.

The total of big game in the national forests of the United States as of January 1, 1939 was 1,842,000—an increase of 6 per cent over the 1,740,000 reported for 1938. The 1939 big game population nearly trebles that of 1924, when 693,000 big game animals were reported in the national forests.

Throughout the entire United States, about one third of all big game is on national forests, according to the report. In the western part of the country, more than three fourths of the big game animals range on the national forests for a large part of the year.

The Forest Service cooperates with the Biological Survey and the game departments of the states in developing management plans for the wild herds and flocks which will provide a sustained yield of big game animals, thereby furnishing highest values in sport, recreation and economic benefit to the communities.

"Sustained yield of big game is an important feature of forest management," says the Forest Service. "For best results the numbers of big game animals must be kept in balance with the food supply. There is abundant summer feed on practically every national forest; but curtailed winter range, which usually lies outside the national forests, is the greatest factor limiting numbers of game animals."



# Around the Range Country

## WYOMING

Cold, frosty weather was frequent, to the detriment of forage growth, but days were moderately warm, some of them quite warm, and meadows and forage have done pretty well. Every week brought more or less rain, and while some sections were missed, most of the state has good pasturage or grass, and livestock are reported to be doing well. The driest regions are in the south and west, though spots east of the Divide need rain.

### Colony (Crook County)

We had the driest spring on record for this part of Wyoming, but since June 1 the rainfall has been about normal, although not sufficient to bring the range up to that point. There will be practically no wild hay.

Conditions were unusually favorable for lambing and the yield was larger than last year's. No contracting has been done yet (July 1) for lambs of any kind.

About 50 per cent of the wool has been sold. The larger clips sold in a price range of 22 to 23¾ cents. Nearly all the wool is light shrinking and largely of medium grade.

The administration of the Taylor Grazing Act is very unsatisfactory here. The grazer in charge is a law unto himself and sits in review on appeals from his own decisions, which are often arbitrary and unjust.

Cola W. Shepard

### Kemmerer (Lincoln County)

Weather and feed conditions have been splendid since April 1 and far ahead of conditions in the past few years on the same date. High winds have prevailed, however, which have dried out the range and taken the snow out of the hills, leaving a shortage of water in the streams in many places (June 19).

A larger percentage of lambs was saved this year than last, due to good weather conditions at lambing time. There were no severe storms and the nights were generally warm. The death loss in ewes during the winter was low and compares favorably with other years.

Up to the present time, prices of wool sold here have ranged from 18 to 22½ cents.

Coyotes are increasing. Larger dens of puppies and many more of them are being found because coyotes are smarter than men.

Mrs. P. J. Quealy

## MONTANA

Cool, wet weather characterized the month, only the last week being somewhat drier and milder, and more favorable for farming operations. Also rapid vegetation growth occurred, as a result of the warmth and ample soil moisture supplies. Good alfalfa crops are being harvested, excepting where grasshoppers were bad in eastern counties, and the prospects are good for the second crop. Livestock are generally in thriving condition.

*The notes on weather conditions, appearing under the names of the various states in Around the Range Country, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of June.*

*The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the Wool Grower and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool growers.*

### Broadus (Powder River County)

Weather and feed conditions on the range have been excellent since the first of June. In 1936, June saw the greater share of the range taken by hoppers; in 1937 the forage came back pretty well and better in 1938; this year conditions are still better.

Our lamb crop is about the same size as a year ago and so far (July 1) none of it has been contracted.

About 80 per cent of the wool grown here is sold at 21 to 24 cents. Shrinkage is light and the wools grade mostly half blood and medium to medium fine.

Not very many of the growers have availed themselves of the government wool loan this year.

A. W. Heidel

## IDAHO

Temperatures were generally below normal, with occasional frosts to injure or slow up vegetation growth, though forage grew rapidly enough for use. Light, scattered showers occurred every week, though some important areas were missed. Rain is thus needed in many sections, especially in the south. Livestock are mostly doing well.

## WASHINGTON

Seasonal temperatures prevailed, being none too warm, and yet not too cool, for crop growth and the production of forage. Showers were timely, and in ample quantities in most sections; and while some hay was spoiled, the forage and pasturage were sustained in good shape. Livestock are in satisfactory shape in all parts of the state, having had access to plenty of feed.

### Lyle (Klickitat County)

We had to leave our spring range very early, but found the mountain range very good although drinking water is short. Since April it has been considerably drier than usual.

The number of lambs saved per hundred ewes is better than last year; conditions were favorable for lambing and there was also a very light winter death loss in ewes this year.

Light shrinking wools have been selling at around 20 cents a pound.

Coyotes are more numerous than they were a year ago. No one is trapping in this vicinity, due in part to the difficulty to get a permit.

McNeil & McNeil

## OREGON

Cold, frosty weather prevailed early in the month, the cool weather continuing, without much frost, through the rest of the month. Light, scattered showers occurred during the first half of the month, appreciably heavier showers occurring during the third week. The last week was rather dry everywhere, the weather being favorable for crops and native forage; it was also favorable for haying. Much of the range land needs more rain, but livestock are generally doing fairly well.

Moro  
(Sherman County)

Feed conditions here (June 22) are only 50 per cent of what they were last year.

Lambing yields were higher in this section this year. Some lambs averaging about 82 pounds in weight, have been bought at \$8. No ewe lambs are for sale here.

Wools have been selling at 19 to 22½ cents and about 80 per cent of the clip has been purchased.

John DeMoss

## CALIFORNIA

Temperatures were near or somewhat above normal along the coast, but over the interior valleys they fluctuated, part of the time abnormally low, and one week abnormally high; but temperature conditions were mostly favorable for forage production. Only a very few light showers occurred, chiefly in the mountains. Lower pastures are dry, but still afford some feed, and livestock are generally in satisfactory condition.

Dixon  
(Solano County)

Feed is very poor in comparison with the last several years. We are feeding our sheep hay and cottonseed cake at present (June 26).

I think California's lamb crop was about average in size this year. Weather conditions during lambing were not bad, but there was not much green feed, of course. All fat lambs, which were few, were sold off ewes; others were sent to Ladino clover and feed lots.

Practically all of the wool grown in this vicinity has been sold, at least 90 per cent of it, at 22 to 26 cents and some higher, according to growth, etc.; it is a very mixed lot of wool here.

I do not know much about the question of whether or not the Forest Service should be transferred to the Department of the Interior, as we are not confronted with that problem here, but I think most sheepmen are against the transfer.

## NEVADA

Temperatures averaged about normal, or somewhat below, with occasional frosts to check vegetation growth earlier in the month. Light, scattered showers occurred every week, but they were below normal as a rule, and the range country needs rain. Generally, however, the showers were of some benefit, and livestock as a rule are doing well, with a fairly good quantity of feed. The hay crop, first cutting, is only fair as a rule.

## UTAH

Temperatures averaged near or somewhat above normal, though two or three frosty spells occurred to check vegetation growth. The first and third weeks were rainy, favorable for pasturing, especially over the northwestern portion. But pastures and ranges have been so badly in need of more rain in the south and east, that livestock have depreciated to only fair condition. Much hay was spoiled by rain in the north, and the alfalfa crop was generally light, due to weevils and drought.

Meadow  
(Millard County)

Our feed is about 50 per cent of normal; we have had many late frosts and no rain (June 26). We had very poor spring feed, which did not help us at lambing time and the number of lambs saved is about 70 per cent of normal. No contracting has been reported around here.

I think about 50 per cent of the wool is sold. Wool shrinking around 65 per cent has gone at 20 cents. About 25 per cent of the growers of this section will take out a government loan on their wool.

Stott Bros.

## COLORADO

Temperatures averaged near to somewhat above normal, the eastern half being warmest. Only a few frosty nights occurred, at the higher elevations. Only light, widely scattered showers occurred at long intervals; as a result moisture is needed for all crops and ranges, and local pastures are drying badly. Livestock have migrated to the mountain areas, and there they have found plenty of feed, and are doing well.

## NEW MEXICO

Exceptionally warm weather prevailed excepting the last week when temperatures were appreciably lower. Precipitation was deficient, and confined to showers during the first and last weeks, chiefly over the eastern counties and the mountain sections. Lower forage and dry-land crops deteriorated, but conditions were favorable for haying. Livestock are still fairly good, but cannot be expected to improve until general showers improve ranges.

Tinnie  
(Lincoln County)

The range has been dry since April 1, but relief came when the rains started on June 27.

The lamb crop is about 25 per cent larger than last year's. As yet no lamb contracts have been made.

About three fourths of the wool raised in the vicinity has been sold at prices varying from 16 to 22 cents. Very few, if any, of the sheepmen are

### Colorado Convention Dates

*We have been asked by the Colorado Wool Growers Association to make a special announcement of their convention dates, since some confusion has arisen about them. The dates are July 26, 27 and 28 and the place, the Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs, Colorado. A cordial invitation is extended to western sheepmen to attend.*

using the government loan this year. The wool, as a lot, in this section of the state has been lighter than in previous years. Due to a spell of bad weather, those who sheared their sheep early this year suffered a bad loss.

Sheepmen of this section favor the transfer of the administration of grazing on the national forests to the Department of the Interior.

The coyotes have been bad in this place and have caused a big loss. We have had no help from the Biological Survey and have had to pay our own trappers; most of the sheepmen here are in favor of a direct bounty.

Leopoldo Pacheco

### ARIZONA

Most of the month was abnormally hot and dry, though some frosty weather occurred one week over the northern plateau country. Only the southeastern portion had moisture one week, the rest of the state being continually dry. Some mountain springs are reported dry for the first time in fifty years, and the country generally has dried out seriously. Livestock have held up remarkably well, most of them requiring more or less supplemental feeding.

### WESTERN TEXAS

Warm weather prevailed, three or four degrees above normal for the month as a whole, being especially warm from the 5th to the 20th. Heavy local showers chiefly in the last ten days, not only lowered temperatures but were highly beneficial to crops and forage plants; at Amarillo 7.59 inches of rain fell, which is 4.75 inches above normal. This, however, did not extend to the southern and far western extremities of the region, and ranges need more rain over many of the southwestern counties of Texas. Most livestock, however, are keeping up in good flesh.

## New Meat Carving Movie Scheduled in Theaters From Coast to Coast



Max O. Cullen, specialist of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, explaining the various steps leading up to the carving ceremony at the dinner table to Pete Smith, producer of motion picture shorts bearing his name, and Ann Morris, M-G-M player. The picture was taken during the recent filming of "Culinary Carving," an educational short in which Cullen was featured.

AT least twenty million people throughout the United States will soon see, in motion picture theaters, how appetizing a properly carved roast can be, and will have the opportunity to learn how easy it is to carve if it is done the right way.

Featured by practical meat carving instruction set forth in human interest fashion, a Pete Smith educational short entitled, "Culinary Carving," was released by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer on July 1st. This picture was made with the assistance of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, through its director of meat merchandising, M. O. Cullen.

This new film was conceived in the mind of Pete Smith, winner of the 1937 Motion Picture Academy Award for short subject pictures. It is built around the mirth-provoking experiences of a young husband who has his wife prepare an extra-special meal, invites his boss as a guest, and then makes a failure of the job of carving the roast.

In contrast to the husband's amateurish attempts to carve, Mr. Cullen, in the role of a carving ace, shows the husband and wife, as well as the theater audience, how simple the art of carving is when properly done, and how much it adds to the appreciation of a roast or steak.

Mr. Cullen was called upon to serve as technical advisor for this film, and also appeared as one of the characters. He shows his skill by deftly carving a standing rib roast of beef, a baked ham and a leg of lamb.

Tying in closely with the appearance of the film in the cities where shown, the Board is supplying motion picture exhibitors with window cards for display by local retailers. Packers and retailers in these cities will be notified of the time of showing and will be asked to cooperate in every possible way. A new illustrated booklet on carving is also being prepared and will be available for distribution by retail meat dealers.



## The Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show

**C**LOSE to 500 youthful livestock men and women from five intermountain states herded their fat cattle, hogs and sheep into North Salt Lake, Utah, the early part of June to compete for the high honors and awards offered by the third annual Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, held at that point on June 7-9.

Their number was made up of 349 Future Farmers of America and 137 4-H Club members, coming from Utah (393), Idaho (69), Montana (9), Colorado (9), and Wyoming (5).

And all eyes were looking longingly at the grand championships, the most coveted awards, but of which there were only three. To Miss Helen Montforton, 11-year-old daughter of Ernest Montforton, noted Hereford breeder of Gallatin Gateway, Montana, went that award in the baby beef section. Her 892-pound steer, whose sire and dam were both registered animals of Prince Domino breeding, was said by Judge V. N. Shepard of the South San Francisco Union Stock Yards, to be the best steer he had ever handled and in the auction sale on the third day of the show, it brought its proud young owner 40 cents a pound, or a total of \$356.80. The purchaser was Safeway Stores, Inc. Miss Montforton is a 4-H Club member.

Keith Anderson of Tremonton, Utah, an F.F.A., had the grand champion barrow, in the opinion of Prof. Harry H. Smith of the Utah State Agricultural College, who placed the ribbons in the hog classes. It was a 183-pound Spotted Poland China, sired by a registered boar, and sold in the auction at 35 cents a pound to W. D. Sutton of the Newhouse Hotel, Salt Lake City.

Mr. Anderson was also a close contender for the high honor in the sheep section with a Southdown lamb, but Judge Shepard finally placed a 65-pound Southdown lamb, entered by Bob Huff, a 4-H Club member from Bliss, Idaho, as grand champion of the show. The Utah Chain Store Association bought this lamb at \$2.10 a pound, or \$136.50.

Young Huff's lamb had previously received high place in the 4-H division of the sheep show, while Keith Anderson's Southdown took this award in the F.F.A. section. Messrs. Huff and Anderson also received highest honors for best showmanship in the lamb division.

The champion pen of three fat lambs in the 4-H entries were Southdowns shown by Miss DeLone Summers of Tremonton, Utah, and in the F.F.A. division, Hampshires entered by Grant Richards of Garland, Utah.

Lee Carroll Johnson of Brigham City took first place in the 4-H division in Hampshire lambs and Cannon Anderson of Ammon, Idaho, made that rank

in the F.F.A. section. In the Hampshire pens of three, high awards went to Eldon Anderson, 4-H Club member of Tremonton, Utah, and Grant Richards. The best Suffolk lamb in the 4-H division was shown by Sherman Fisher of Heber City, Utah, and in the F.F.A. section, by Hal Oldroyd of Venice, Utah, while Billie Washburn of Monroe, Utah, a 4-H Club member, and MacKay Knight, an F.F.A. of Kamas, Utah, had the best pens of three Suffolk lambs. In Southdowns, top awards went to Bob Huff and Keith Anderson on single lambs and to Miss DeLone Summers on her pen of three lambs. Rambouillet entries of Maurice Briggs, 4-H, of Heber City, Utah, and Grant Richards, F.F.A., were awarded first places.

Interest in the show, evidenced by large attendances each day, reached a



Bob Huff, 4-H Club member of Bliss, Idaho, and his grand champion lamb of the Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show. The lamb, a 65-pound Southdown, sold at \$2.10 a pound.



## Meat Board's Annual Meeting

A REVIEW of the 16th year of promoting meat consumption was presented on June 22 and 23 at Chicago to the directors of the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

The Board now has twenty-four directors. Of these, thirteen represent producer organizations; four, commis-

sion men; three, packers; and two, retail meat dealers.

Mr. Albert K. Mitchell, Bell Ranch, New Mexico, former president of the American National Live Stock Association, was elected chairman of the Board to succeed Thomas E. Wilson. J. W. Rath, packer of Waterloo, Iowa, was named vice chairman to succeed D. M. Hildebrand of Seward, Nebraska.

The following excerpts from the annual report of the General Manager carry some of the highlights of last year's work:

More meetings for meat retailers have been held, and more dealers reached this past year than in any year of the Board's history. Meetings conducted in 233 key cities of 43 states were attended by men of the trade from more than 2,300 cities, hundreds of whom traveled from 25 to 100 miles to be present. The instructions at these meetings was centered on information which will help dealers to win more customers. It ranged from the introduction of methods to sell slow-moving cuts, to directions in meat cooking; from ideas on effective display, to the story of meat as a source of the essential food elements.

\* \* \* \*

As another method of securing for meat its share of the family food budget, attention is called to the program which is reaching the housewives in 31 million homes of the United States through the Board's cooking schools. Through this program, housewives are learning how to buy meat wisely and prepare it correctly, and are given the facts showing the place of meat in the diet of the whole family.

One phase of the housewife program is the meat cookery school, in which a four-day course of instruction is given. Fifty-nine meat dishes are prepared in each of these schools, as well as 22 dishes using lard. Each cooking school has become the center of city-wide promotion for meat.

Interest in the newer methods of meat cookery is widespread and increasing. This is evidenced by the calls coming to our home economics department from housewives, teachers, and others in all corners of the country. Authors, publishers, and magazine writers are asking us to assist them with meat cookery copy and to furnish the latest findings in this field. Manufacturers are asking us to test out meat cookery equip-

climax on the third and final session when the show animals were given the ultimate test, buyers' approval. On that day, 406 calves, 175 hogs and 233 lambs were auctioned off to the highest bidders. Individual lambs sold at 15 to 36 cents a pound, the latter figure being paid by the Rotisserie Inn of Salt Lake City for the F.F.A. champion; the grand champion lamb, as stated above, brought \$2.10 a pound. Fat steers went mostly at 10 to 11 cents a pound. Some of the plainer kinds sold as low as 9 cents; the reserve grand champion made 13.5 cents a pound and the grand champion, 40 cents. The range of prices paid for individual hogs, aside from the grand champion barrow which brought 35 cents a pound, was from 9 to 16 cents.

The quality of the stock presented at the third annual Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show was so much better than at the initial event as to prove its real merit. But, of course, in work of this kind there is always room for improvement, and young livestock operators are learning that poorly bred animals do not develop into prize winners, even with the best of care and feeding. Doubtless, too, through these junior livestock shows that are taking such a firm root in the show business over the country, this same truth will be brought home more effectively to some of the older livestockmen than by a more direct route.

But even though there were disappointments at failure to obtain a coveted ribbon, the dinners, luncheons, air rides, baseball games and other events provided for the boys and girls must have made the three days of the show very pleasant ones for everyone. These events were made possible through the exceptionally fine cooperation given the show by business interests of Salt Lake City and Davis County. To Raymond C. Wilson, chairman of the livestock and agricultural committee of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, which sponsored the show, E. J. Maynard, its manager, and J. H. Manderfield, manager of the Salt Lake Union Stock Yards, the site of the show, commendation must be given for its efficient management and all-round success.



J. W. Rath, packer of Waterloo, Iowa, vice chairman of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. Albert K. Mitchell of Bell Ranch, New Mexico, is chairman of the Board.

ment from time to time. The Board is regarded as a source of authentic information on all phases of the selection and preparation of meat.

Studies sponsored by the Board at the Universities of Arkansas, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, are revealing more and more, the high nutritive and health values of meat and lard. We have recently learned, for example, that liver is a rich source of a new vitamin, a deficiency of which not only causes anemia, but also a reduction in the white blood cells.

Problems of especial concern to pork producers are being given careful consideration by an advisory livestock and meat research council set up during the year. The United States Department of Agriculture, the livestock and meat industry, the public health service, the veterinary profession, and the Board, are represented on this committee.

The Board was called upon by lamb growers' and feeders' organizations to direct a special program designed to step-up lamb consumption, for which the lamb interests provided special funds. This program supplemented the regular year-round activities of the Board for lamb and other meats.

With the industry faced by an acute lard situation in recent months, the Board has given an extra push for this product in its educational and advertising program and has made widespread distribution of lard posters, lard recipe booklets, and other lard material. In connection with this activity, it was possible to make excellent use of the results gathered from lard research sponsored by the Board during the past nine years at a leading university. These are but a few specific examples which illustrate the value of being ready to act when problems arise within the industry.

Reports received by the directors of the Board showed that grading and branding of meats by government officials during the calendar year 1938 covered 603 million pounds of beef, which was a 47 per cent increase over the amount graded in 1937. During ten months ending April 30, 1939, 67.5 per cent of the government-graded beef was from steers. Of this steer beef, 5.2 per cent was graded prime; 51.5 per cent, choice; and 34.1 per cent, good. At the same time, 22.5 per cent of the beef graded was heifer beef, of which 38.7 per cent was of choice grade, and 45 per cent was branded good. Cow beef comprised 9 per cent of the total, and of this grade, 21.6 per cent was graded good; 30.8 per cent, medium; and 24.5 per cent, plain.

The government report also showed

that in 1938, 28 million pounds of lamb and mutton was officially graded, as compared to 24 million pounds in the year 1937. The principal points at which lamb and mutton were graded were New York and Seattle with over 7 million pounds each, Los Angeles with 5 million pounds, Detroit with 2 million pounds, and Chicago with 1,250,000 pounds.

A separate report received by the Board covering the grading of meats by 72 packers in accordance with their own standards showed that the beef graded in 1938 amounted to a little over one million pounds. This was about 10 per cent above the amount graded in 1937, and practically the same amount as in 1936. Of the packer-graded beef, about 16 per cent fell into the first grade, 34 per cent into the second grade, 32 per cent into the third grade, and 16 per cent into the fourth grade.

## Good Outlook Seen for Wool Mill Consumption

THE Bureau of Agricultural Economics looks for "a fairly high level" of wool consumption by domestic mills in the next few months.

A steady demand for wool in foreign markets and relatively small supplies in Southern Hemisphere countries were noted. These should be strengthening factors in the domestic wool situation, the Bureau said, at least until the new Southern Hemisphere clip becomes available next fall.

Apparent supplies of wool in five Southern Hemisphere exporting countries were reported about 25 per cent smaller this May 1 than last, and 4 per cent smaller than the May 1 average for the 5 years 1933-37. Supplies of wool in most foreign importing countries, except Japan, were "fairly large," it was said, but mill activity in these countries was reported as having increased in recent months.

The Bureau said that domestic mill consumption next fall and winter will depend partly upon changes in business conditions at that time. Business conditions are expected to be "at least as favorable" in the second as in the first half of this year.

## Texas Directors Meet

DIRECTORS of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association met in their quarterly session at Mason on June 8. Dates for the annual convention of the association to be held at Ft. Worth were announced as December 8 and 9.

The committee also expressed very strong opposition to trade agreements and urged the adoption of Senator O'Mahoney's Resolution No. 69, which would declare the Senate's opposition to all trade agreements and treaties that have not been submitted to that body for approval. Commendation was given by resolution to the work of Senator O'Mahoney and Representative Scrugham "for the manner in which they handled the amendment to the Navy appropriation bill, which makes the purchase of all foods to supply the Navy to be of American production as long as they are available." In that connection the Texas directors also suggested an amendment which would require that "all Army and Navy clothes contracts be let with the understanding that they be made of American wool or mohair where this fiber is specified."

Endorsement of the truth-in-fabrics bills and request for their passage at this session also were included in the resolutions adopted by the Texas directors.

"We are strongly opposed," a further resolution stated, "to the federal reorganization bill where it deals with the federal lending agencies, such as the R.F.C., and the Farm Credit Administration, the C.C.C., and other branches that deal with agricultural loans, and urge that these lending agencies be set up under a separate head and not be a consolidation of some political department already in existence."

Secretary Cunningham gave a full report to the directors of his work in Washington and a letter from Secretary Marshall of the National Association was read covering the general status of affairs pertaining to the sheep industry.

# Progress in Shrinkage Tests of Growers' Clips

By ROBERT H. BURNS,

Senior Marketing Specialist, Bureau of Agricultural Economics

*A comprehensive article upon the importance of shrinkage in relation to the price of clips was printed in the January issue of the Wool Grower. During Dr. Burns' two-years' stay in Washington, D.C., in charge of the studies in wool shrinkage, the Wool Grower has occasionally referred to the importance of the project and to progress being made.*

*The aim of the government studies has been to perfect a dependable method of taking samples from clips and scouring them so as to be able to give the grower a quick and reliable report upon the commercial shrinkage of his clip. The job is more difficult than it would seem to be. But Dr. Burns has made real progress. It is to be regretted that he will not continue to work on this project under the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. He here reports results from some recent shrinkage tests, in comparison with mill reports of the shrinkage of the entire clips from which the samples were taken. The figures show a very pleasing correspondence. It is reasonable to expect that before long the Bureau will be in a position to take samples from a clip and make a quick and useful report that will enable the grower to compute the real value of his wool, upon the clean basis. Only by figuring on the clean basis is it possible to compare values of different clips or to figure out the value of any clip from the reported market prices.*

THE Bureau of Agricultural Economics has been working on a test of the shrinkage of small samples of wool as compared with the entire lot when processed at the mill.

In a former paper the writer pointed out the importance of wool shrinkage to the range sheepman and explained a method of sampling to obtain a representative cross section through a clip by grading out certain bags selected at definite intervals throughout the clip. Clips of wool rarely keep their identity through to the mill, and it was not possible during 1938 to follow clips from the ranch to the mill. \* \* \*

A report of the findings of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its recent wool shrinkage tests follows.

## Experimental Procedure

Three different lots of wool were tested at the mill and the information on these lots and the subplot and samples made up from the subplot is given in the following table:

MILL LOT	Total No. of Bags	No. of Bags in Sublot	No. of Samples Taken from Sublot
Wyoming Original Bag	82	9	6
Montana Graded			
1/2 Blood	126	10	24
Idaho Graded 1/2 Blood	258	10	12

The plan was to take 10 bags spaced at equal intervals throughout the entire lot. These 10 bags were graded in the case of the original bag lot, and samples were taken from each grade pile. In the case of the graded lots (Montana and Idaho), the samples were taken directly.

In all of the sublots there were around 300 fleeces. It has been found in previous sampling work that random handfuls from 50 fleeces make up a 10-15 pound sample, which has been chosen as a convenient size of sample to use in these tests. In the first lot, single samples were taken. In the second lot, quadruplicate samples were taken by two operators. In the third lot, duplicate samples were taken by one operator.

## Methods of Sampling the Fleeces

The operator took from each of the tied fleeces, handfuls of wool from the shoulder, side, and back portions, regulating the amounts according to the bulk of the fleece. The mill sorted the fleeces, using the main body sorts. The main body sorts at the mill are directly comparable with samples taken from the shoulder, side, and back.

## Methods of Scouring

The samples were scoured at the wool laboratory of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in a semicommercial scouring plant, consisting of six bowls measuring 18" x 18" x 10'. Three bowls contained scouring solutions and three rinsing solutions. \* \* \*

The wool was dusted and then divided into portions of approximately 2000 grams, the proper amount for each bowl, and floated along the surface of the scouring liquor by hand and fed through the squeeze rolls between each bowl. Each bowl was equipped with a perforated movable tray that could be raised up out of the solution. This tray prevented the loss of bits of wool into the bottom of the bowls. The temperature of the baths in the various bowls was kept at 120 degrees F. After passing through the six bowls, the wool was conveyed through a dryer and after standing all night was run through a duster and weighed. Subsamples were taken in proportion to the size of the sample and moisture determinations were made in a conditioning oven. All final scoured weights were corrected to a basis of 12 per cent of moisture. Tests were made on the cleanliness of the scoured wool by means of soxhlet extractions.

The scouring at the mill was carried on in the usual commercial manner, and



### Experimental Results

*A Comparison of the Shrinkage of Samples, Sublots and Entire Lots. Shrinkages of Samples Based on Yield of Scoured Wool at 12% Moisture. Shrinkages of Mill Lots Based on Yield of Top, Noil, Slubbing, and Waste at 12% Moisture.*

LOT	All Samples		Sublot	Entire Lot (1)
	Mean	Standard Deviation		
Wyoming Original Bag .....	56.4	2.07	57.0	56.8
Montana Graded 1/2 Blood .....	59.7	1.00	60.4	58.5
Idaho Graded 1/2 Blood .....	55.6	0.62	54.6	53.4

#### *Difference in Shrinkage, Using the Entire Lot as a Base*

LOT	Sublot	All Samples
Wyoming Original Bag .....	Plus 0.2	Minus 0.4
Montana Graded 1/2 Blood .....	" 1.9	Plus 1.2
Idaho Grade 1/2 Blood .....	" 1.2	" 2.2

(1) Mill report.

checks were made on the cleanliness of the scoured wool. The yield of the mill lots was reported as the yield of top, noils, slubbing, and card waste, which gives a figure for practically all of the scoured wool that was processed.

The samples showed shrinkages within 2.2 per cent of the entire lot, and it will be noted that in most cases the shrinkages of the samples were higher than those of the entire lot. The variation between samples, as indicated by the standard deviation, was greater in the Wyoming lot of 6 samples; intermediate in the Montana lot of 24 samples; and the smallest in the Idaho lot of 12 samples. These differences in shrinkage between the samples and the entire lot show not only the error of sampling the subplot, but also indicate the additional error in the selection from the entire lot. It is interesting to compare the shrinkage of the samples taken from each subplot with the subplot. The subplot consisted of one tenth of the bags in the clip which were graded out and later scoured. The samples referred to were the smaller selected hand samples which can be reported upon after laboratory scouring, which is much more quickly done with the small samples than with the sublots or the entire clip.

#### *Difference in Shrinkage between All Samples and the Sublot from which These Samples were Taken, Using the Sublot as a Base*

Wyoming Original Bag .....	Minus 0.6
Montana Graded 1/2 Blood .....	" 0.7
Idaho Graded 1/2 Blood .....	Plus 1.0

The correspondence of the shrinkage of the samples and the sublots from which the samples were taken is very close and lends encouragement in the program to find a sampling method that will give representative shrinkages for a large lot or clip of wool. The results also indicate that, in order to obtain such results, it is necessary to remove the tags. In one mill lot, a sample of the tag sort was taken and the corrected shrinkage with tags included was found to be 0.6 per cent higher than the actual shrinkage of the mill lot. The samples gave shrinkages very close to the sublots from which they were taken. However, the sublots and samples varied by as much as around 2 per cent from the entire lots.

Further tests were made with three clips, every fleece of which was graded as it was sheared. With the full grading information on the clip, it was possible to make studies of various systems of sampling in obtaining subsamples which were representative of the entire clip in grade.

### *Clip No. 1—5,320 Fleece, or 97 Bales*

GRADE	Per Cent of Grades by Weight			
	Entire Clip	10 Bales or Every 10th Bale*	5 Bales or Every 20th Bale*	Every 10th Fleece
Fine .....	64.4	65.0	70.2	65.6
1/2 Blood .....	25.0	25.1	23.9	22.7
3/8 Blood .....	9.0	8.2	3.9	10.5
1/4 Blood .....	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.2
Low 1/4 Blood .....	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.0
All Grades .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

\*10 bales or every 10th bale (5 bales or every 20th bale) amount to the same in a 100-bale clip.

In this clip, in so far as the percentage by weight of the grades was concerned, the selection of 10 bags or every 10th bag gave practically the same grades as the entire clip. The selection of 5 bags or every 20th bag was not as representative of the clip as indicated by the grades. The selection of every 10th fleece throughout the clip did not give any better representation of grades of the entire clip than was obtained from 10 bags spaced throughout the clip. A good representation of this clip could be obtained in respect to grades, by selecting either every 10th bag or every 10th fleece throughout the clip.

### *Clip No. 2—8,376 Fleece, or 203 Bags*

GRADE	Per Cent of Grades by Weight			
	Entire Clip	10 Bags	Every 10th Bag	Composite Bag*
Fine .....	82.8	80.8	82.5	72.9
1/2 Blood .....	16.2	17.4	16.1	27.1
3/8 Blood .....	0.9	1.6	1.0	0.0
1/4 Blood .....	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.0
All Grades .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

\*The composite bag was made up by selecting fleeces at equal intervals of time throughout shearing.

Every 10th bag or a total of 20 bags for the clip gives the best representation of the clip as shown by the per cent of grades. The composite bag in which fleeces were selected at equal time intervals did not give as representative results, and the selection of 10 bags equally spaced throughout the clip gave quite good representation although not so good as every 10th bag.

(Continued on page 28)



# June Lamb Prices

## LAMB CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

Representatives of the National Wool Growers Association are to meet with members of the Institute of American Meat Packers late in July or early in August to discuss ways and means of promoting greater stability in lamb market prices.

All sheepmen are urged to send in to the National Wool Grower any suggestions they may have for topics that might be considered profitably at this conference.

THIS year, as usual, the course of lamb prices in the month of June has been as puzzling to producers as it is important to their financial status.

Until June 5 it had generally been said and considered in the West that the expected rate of market shipments would ensure fairly steady prices through June. Cold and dry weather would delay, it was thought, the range shipments that ordinarily move to market in June.

The drop of \$1 to \$1.50 per hundred that was actually recorded at markets between the 5th and 9th of June was a surprise and shock to raisers who had been nursing the hope that they might once more see a summer market that would be in the vicinity of cost of production and marketing. Nevertheless the break was started on June 5. Then, starting on June 12, an advance recovered a large part of the losses of the previous week, and while prices fluctuated during the remainder of the month and as much as 35 cents was taken off top prices at Chicago on Monday, June 26, the month closed with half of that amount regained, and July opened on the same basis.

The course of the market during June is shown in the table, giving day-by-day top prices of live lambs at Chicago and Denver and on western dressed lamb at New York, and receipts at 13 markets.

Of course, statistics are never wholly satisfactory. Figures covering receipts always contain some duplications, which may be more in some weeks than in others, and cars counted among

"salable" receipts at Denver often go on to Chicago to be listed again in the receipts. But even though such discrepancies exist, these figures are the best and in fact only apparent clue to the solution of the lamb market problem.

In the statistics compiled and shown in the table for the month of June, one thing stands out prominently; that is on June 5 receipts at 13 markets were 54,600 head, the largest day's receipts for the month, and the following day brought 46,200 lambs to those markets, which made the two-day volume 100,800 head. As the figures run, those two days of high receipts evidently provided the weight with which it was possible to press down as much as

\$1.50 at some markets during that week.

Receipts for the week of June 5 at the 13 markets were 198,608, as against 184,321 in the previous week, or an increase of 14,287 head (about 7.7 per cent). Slaughter at 16 centers for the week totaled 192,987, which was 9,249 head or about 5 per cent larger than the week before. But then we come to the week of June 19 when receipts at 13 markets totaled 194,129 and slaughter at 16 points jumped to 202,388. True, there was a slight drop in the market at the opening of the week; however, not only was that loss recovered, but the market price of top lambs advanced during the week to \$10.60 at Chicago and \$10.25 at Den-

## Daily Receipts at 13 Markets — Top Prices Live Lambs Chicago and Denver, Dressed Lambs New York

1930	Receipts at 13 markets (1) Salable	Chicago	Top Prices Spring Lambs Denver	Top Prices Western Dressed Spring Lamb New York
May 29	40,600	\$10.50	\$10.60	\$23.00
May 30	Holiday (No Market)			
May 31	48,200	11.00	10.60	23.00
June 1	36,295	11.00	10.60	23.00
June 2	34,600	11.00	10.65	23.00
June 5	54,600	10.50	10.15	24.00
June 6	46,200	10.50	9.60	23.00
June 7	35,200	10.00	9.35	23.00
June 8	26,700	9.75	9.45	23.00
June 9	24,100	9.75	9.50	23.00
June 12	42,400	9.85	9.45	23.00
June 13	39,400	9.85	9.50	22.00
June 14	27,000	10.00	9.75	21.50
June 15	30,820	10.10	9.90	21.50
June 16	23,200	10.40	9.90	22.00
June 19	44,000	10.35	9.75	23.00
June 20	35,350	10.35	9.85	23.00
June 21	33,400	10.50	10.10	23.00
June 22	27,650	10.50	10.25	23.00
June 23	28,100	10.60	10.00	23.00
June 26	46,600	10.25	9.75	23.00
June 27	34,200	10.25	9.85	23.00
June 28	32,700	10.35	9.85	22.50
June 29	29,815	10.35	9.75	22.00
June 30	28,300	10.40	9.75	22.00

(1) Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Denver, Ft. Worth, Indianapolis, Kansas City, National Stockyards, Ill., Omaha, Sioux City, So. St. Joseph, So. St. Paul, plus Ogden, Utah. Source: Daily Reports, Agricultural Marketing Service.

ver, the highest levels since the June 5 break. For Monday and Tuesday of that week receipts were 44,000 and 35,350 or 79,350 as against 100,800 for those days in the week of June 5.

The final week of the month opened with receipts at 13 markets for the first two days of 80,800; and 25 cents was pried off live lamb prices. Receipts for that week totaled 158,869 and the slaughter at 16 points was 187,858.

Certainly, the weekly receipts and slaughter were not excessive. Neither was the total slaughter of the month, 1,401,475 as against 1,392,098 last month and 1,485,386 in June, 1938, unduly great. That outlet channels were not unduly congested is borne out by the fact that of the 24 days covered in the table, top wholesale prices on western dressed lambs at New York stood at \$23 on 17 days. Following the week of June 5, the top figure paid at New York for spring lamb carcasses fell to \$21.50 for two days and the last week of the month recorded a drop to \$22.50. But as Mr. Poole forecasted last month, when the range runs got under way, the buying interests wrote a "new book," and any increase in volume of receipts, especially when piling up on two successive days, gave them the title for a new chapter.

Probably you may reach a different solution from your study of the figures.

As indicated above, in trying to solve the lamb market question, a great many clues or pieces have to be fitted together to give the proper answer. The market line-up is changing all the time. In June sheep and lamb receipts at Ogden on some days were equal to one third of the total reaching the 12 markets for which the Agricultural Marketing Service carries reports on its daily sheets. Ft. Worth, Texas, with the increased interest of sheepmen of that state in lamb production and feeding, has risen until it ranks among the larger markets, both as to receipts and slaughter. For the month its receipts of salable stock were only 14,330 under the total reported for Ogden. The weekly slaughter at Ft. Worth was: 24,591; 13,947; 17,064; 19,692 and 17,157. Of course, Jersey City or the New York area, has top place as a lamb slaughtering point. Years ago

Mr. Poole always referred to it as the "stormy petrel" of the lamb market. Just what influence supplies at that point exercised on the June lamb market, we do not know. Slaughter at that point by weeks was as follows:

Week ending	
June 3 .....	50,174
June 10 .....	55,512
June 17 .....	53,208
June 24 .....	60,087
July 1 .....	60,875

The 5,000 increase in the week opening on June 5 may have helped to tip the price scale downward, but if so the larger increases during the last two weeks of the month apparently did not have a correspondingly potent force.

Another angle to the situation is the movement of southern lambs that started marketward around June 5. With the big packers and eastern independents supplying eastern slaughter by purchases in Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky, Chicago had no eastern orders and could not have filled them if they had been at that market. The main, or only competition between the larger killers and the smaller interests was in the South and to some extent at Ogden or Denver. The southern country prices did not suffer so severely as those at Chicago and other central markets farther west.

But the June story is told. What about July and August? There's the rub. Earlier in the spring it was suggested that the return of California fed lambs to central markets and larger

than usual shipments of early crop lambs from the Northwest might materially step up market receipts in July. Now, however, many of the market reporters seem to think that the bulk of the California lambs on feed in the Midwest have been absorbed already by the markets. How receipts of range lambs will run, it is, of course, impossible to forecast.

The government's estimate of the size of this year's lamb crop will be published on July 27. This year's lighter Texas crop must pull down the national total unless it is counterbalanced by a considerable increase in farm production. Such farm increase is to be expected as a result of payments for shifting to pasture and forage crops under the soil conservation program. It was looked for last year, but was not apparent in the official report.

Slaughter under federal inspection for the first six months of 1939 totals 8,307,653 as against 8,863,553 the first half of last year. How the decrease compares with the figures for the size of the crop cannot be told now, but some statistical prognosticators say that the number of lambs that can be marketed this year is enough smaller to keep the season's slaughter record below that of 1938. Even if this idea goes wrong, it is known that the present crop will carry a larger percentage of feeders than last year. That means fewer killers, which, in turn, may or should mean higher prices for fat lambs.

### Weekly Receipts, Slaughter and Average Prices

Week Ending:	Receipts 13 Markets (1) Salable	Average Price Choice Spring Lambs Chicago	Average Price Western Dressed Spring Lambs (All Weights) New York	Slaughter 16 Markets (2)
June 3 .....	184,321	\$10.88	\$22.00	183,738
June 10 .....	198,608	9.75	22.00	192,987
June 17 .....	183,916	9.85	21.15	185,267
June 24 .....	194,129	10.12	22.00	202,388
July 1 .....	158,869	10.02	21.85	187,858

(1) Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Denver, Ft. Worth, Indianapolis, Kansas City, National Stockyards, Ill., Omaha, Sioux City, So. St. Joseph, So. St. Paul, plus Ogden, Utah. Source: Daily Market Reports, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Chicago and Ogden.

(2) Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, East St. Louis, St. Joseph, Sioux City, Wichita, Ft. Worth, Philadelphia, Indianapolis, New York & Jersey City, Oklahoma City, Denver, St. Paul, Milwaukee, Cincinnati. Source: Special reports to the National Provisioner.

Note: The 16 slaughter points do not include all of the 13 markets on which receipts are reported.

# Creep Feeding of Spring Lambs

By ROBERT F. MILLER

College of Agriculture, Davis, California

IN California we have heard a lot about creep feeding of spring lambs and it is becoming more and more common. It was one of the major topics of discussion at the spring meeting of sheepmen held at the College of Agriculture at Davis on March 31.

Creep feeding consists in providing supplemental feed for the lambs apart from their mothers by means of creep panels set up at the bed ground. This is particularly desirable in January and February when natural vegetation is short. It results in forcing the lambs to an early finish, a high percentage of fat lambs, and lambs of heavy weight. There are many details involved in successful creep feeding and for that reason some men fail while others have excellent results. There is some diversity of opinion among sheepmen as to the general practicability of this somewhat new practice. Those who have done creep feeding carefully have been highly pleased and, due to the fact that the cost is nominal, it has proven profitable.

## Important Essentials

Creep feeding must fit into the method of grazing; namely, it works best where sheep are in charge of a herder and where the ewes and lambs graze leisurely up to a well-located and well-arranged creep late in the evening. They should be held there for about an hour. In many cases the ewes camp down near the creep. The creep does not work so well where the ewes and lambs are grazing at will under fence.

Sufficient feeding or trough room should be provided so all the lambs can eat at one time. The creep should have slatted panels on all four sides making it easy for the lambs to "dodge" in and out. The troughs should be kept very clean and have a board rail suspended above the trough to keep the lambs from jumping into



Creep feeding California spring lambs. The band is just coming in and the lambs are crowding into the creep. Soon the creep will be completely filled. These creep panels are of light construction and are readily moved from one range to another. Grain is stored in a tent nearby. The lambs shown here were fed on straight red milo grain on the Joe Paulo range near Sacramento, California.

the trough. To accommodate a band of 700 lambs a panel corral 60 feet wide and 120 feet long is required, equipped with thirty 12-foot troughs.

The space between the slats is somewhat of a problem. It should be narrow enough to keep the smaller ewes out and yet wide enough to admit the lambs. When lambs are small an 8½ inch opening is sufficient, but later the opening must be increased to 10 inches. Some growers use the panels with a 10-inch opening from the beginning and nail a 1 x 4 board across the panel about 16 inches from the bottom which is very helpful in keeping the ewes out.

## Proper Age to Start Creeping

This is one of the "key" points toward success and the creeps should be set up when the lambs are about three weeks old. At that age they are just beginning to eat grass and will also readily learn to eat grain. It has been found difficult to "break in" lambs after they are 6 to 8 weeks old. Many

of them will never come into the creep, as they prefer the green grass to grain at that age.

In the beginning lambs will eat very little grain and the first week the grain is merely sprinkled on the bottom of the trough. This is gradually increased up to one-half a pound per lamb per day when they are 2½ to 3 months old. The herder puts out the grain during the early afternoon and "the table" is set as it were when the band arrives in the evening. It is interesting to see the lambs make a dash for the feed trough.

## Wet Years versus Dry Years

Creep feeding serves as an insurance policy and eliminates the hazard or gamble on the rainfall and for that reason it is recommended to begin creep feeding consistently every year, because lambs have to be taught to eat grain early in life. Furthermore, during January and February green feed is usually short regardless of rain.



Later if the rainfall is favorable and feed is plentiful it may not be necessary to continue, but the all-important thing is to teach the lambs to eat grain early in life and to give them a good start. If the creeps are not used while the lambs are young many of them will never learn to go to them. If the feed turns out to be ample, use of creeps can be discontinued. The ewes also seem to stay in better condition as the lamb is not forever draining the udder.

### *Feeds Best Suited*

Most of the grains are satisfactory although it has been found that lambs prefer the milo maize kernel and at the beginning it is very desirable to feed largely milo. In fact, one of the most successful operators in California uses straight red milo throughout the feeding period. Some growers feed a mixture of rolled barley, cracked corn, oats and alfalfa-molasses meal.

Lambs fed on grain should have free access to water and those men watering out of troughs should see to it that the lambs can reach the water. A salt mixture of 75 per cent plus 25 per cent bone meal is also recommended.

### *Creep Feeding Twins Especially Important*

Frank Arburua of Los Banos, California, in cooperation with the Agricultural Extension Service, kept an accurate record of three bands of ewes and lambs—two of them all single lambs and one all twin lambs—the latter were creep fed and the single lambs were not. The single lambs in Band 1 (91% fat lambs) returned \$5.96 per ewe. Band No. 2, later single lambs (55% fat lambs), returned \$5.30 per ewe while Band No. 3, all twins (91% fat lambs) returned \$9.91 per ewe after deducting 66 cents for supplemental feed per lamb and ewe. In this case the ewes were fed hay in addition to "creeping" the lambs. The single lambs weighed an average of 81 pounds, while the twins weighed 77 pounds each.

Mr. Joe Paulo of Sacramento, who creep fed about 5000 lambs this year, began selling lambs on March 23 and the first draft of 623 lambs averaged 88.7 pounds and were only about 3½

months old. His total sales up to April 28 included 3704 head and the price varied from \$8.50 to \$8.85 per hundred weight with an average weight per lamb of 87.98 pounds or an average price per head of \$7.65. An additional sale of all lambs was made about May 10 (weights not at hand) with but few feeder lambs in the final clean-up sale. These lambs were mainly raised on a second-rate range but were creep fed until sold. Due to the dry year many growers in California who did not creep feed had less than 50 per cent fat lambs this year and the lambs were comparatively light.

Creep feeding is primarily applicable in California spring lamb territory because feed is often short in January and early February. The lambs fre-

quently get a set-back resulting in a large percentage of feeder lambs. Again it is particularly applicable on the second-rate ranges where bur clover is lacking. Such ranges rent for about 75 cents per acre per year, while the bur clover ranges rent for \$1.50 to \$2.00 per acre per year. By "creeping" on these poorer type of ranges it is possible to turn off a high percentage of fat lambs.

These second-rate ranges were formerly used as a lambing range during February and March, and in May the lambs and ewes were trailed to the national forest. Forest privileges have become greatly limited and these men must find other means of fattening their lambs and creep feeding seems to be the way out.

## Australian Wool Display at the New York's World Fair

TO an American wool grower the most interesting feature of the display of Australian wools being made at the New York World's Fair is the enlarged photograph of wool buyers bidding in an auction sale.

Over 90 per cent of the Australian clip is sold by auction. Catalogues are issued and prospective buyers representing manufacturers from nearly all countries examine the sample bales of each lot, which are opened in advance



Australian Wool Auction Scene. Photo Courtesy Australian National Travel Association.



*Preparing the clip for market in an Australian shearing shed—"Throwing the Fleece." Photo Courtesy Australian National Travel Association.*

of the auction hour. When the auctioneer has taken his stand and made the customary announcements regarding terms, deliveries, etc., he calls the catalogue number of the first lot to be sold and strange to say, from then on his voice is heard only to name the successful bidder and to call the number of the next lot. The bidders do the talking, and plenty of it. And they talk loudly with voice, arms and hands. The reason is that a number of buyers may have the same limit price on a lot. Say that each of four men bids 10 pence and there are no higher bids. It is the auctioneer's job to say which of the four first made that bid. So it is to the advantage of each bidder of the high figure to call loudly and wave his arms or to do anything he can to get the auctioneer's attention.

It is competitive bidding in earnest. No chance to steal a lot of wool. If the demand is slow on a particular class, the grower-seller is protected by his agent's valuation. If that value is not reached, the lot is "passed in" and the buyers instantly resume their din of calling bids upon the next lot.

Another picture shows one of the sample bales in the warehouse where

buyers make their examinations.

The throwing and skirting of the fleece in the shearing shed is shown in a third picture. The fleece is taken from the shearing board and thrown upon the table so that it comes down all spread out in its natural shape. The table top is made of rollers which permit dirt or short pieces to fall through. Belly wool does not come to the table.

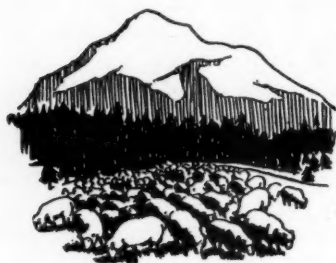
The coarser and dirtier pieces from the lower parts of the fleece are baled and sold separately. The main and best parts of the fleeces are "classed" according to fineness, etc.

The pictures on these pages were furnished by S. N. Houston, wool representative of the Commonwealth of Australia at the New York fair. They also appeared in a very attractive and cleverly printed booklet entitled "Australian Wool," which is being distributed at the New York World's Fair.



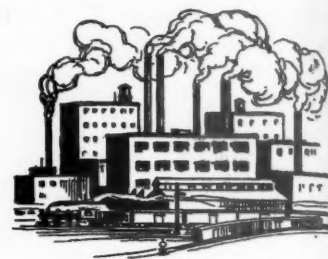
*Buyer inspecting wool on display in Australian warehouse prior to the auction. Photo Courtesy Australian National Travel Association.*

# National Wool Marketing Corporation



## News Bulletin

*Grower Owned and Operated*



### *New Orders for Tops, Yarn, and Cloth Inject New Life in Wool Market*

THE wool market has been given a new lease on life in the last fortnight. New orders have been placed for tops, yarn, and cloth, which promptly caused a broader inquiry for wool. This in turn reflected some strength in the wool market. All grades except  $\frac{3}{8}$  were involved. Values are now almost back to those prevailing six weeks ago, and the situation seems to be sound from every angle. There seems to be no excessive stocks of either semi-manufactured or finished products any place along the line from the manufacturer to the retailer. The report just released by the Department of Commerce covering consumption for the month of May is very gratifying indeed. We list below consumption of the first five months of the year:

January .....	60,260,000
February .....	51,708,000
March .....	47,844,000
April .....	43,730,000
May .....	45,808,000

Our production for 1939 is estimated to be 437,000,000 pounds, including packer's wool. It appears, therefore, that consumption has definitely overtaken production so far as domestic wool is concerned and that we will need substantial weights of foreign wool before the 1940 clip will be available.

There is a clean price for wool, beyond which it is thought that the use of substitutes sharply increases. Those manufacturers in position to know best, place this figure at about 70 cents clean or, in other words, present foreign importing parity on good average fine wool. That is to say, in their judgment, when the price of domestic wool rises above 70 cents to 75 cents clean, the use of substitutes increases rapidly. Below this figure manufacturers and the consuming public desire virgin wool and will pay for it. Inasmuch as our market is now and has been for eighteen months below this theoretical figure, it would seem our consumption might be maintained at the present high rate for many months to come. Manufacturers seem to be well satisfied with orders in hand and expect good business to continue. Dealers in wool seem to have plenty of faith in future values and are satisfied to own an inventory.

The foreign situation is quite satisfactory. Japan is strongly feeling the pinch for wool and is making frantic efforts to acquire stocks from Australia, although practically all the wool of the last Australian and New Zealand clip is out of first hands. Arrangements are now being negotiated whereby Japan may acquire a larger percentage of the coming Australian clip. A recent meeting of the Australian wool brokers has designated August 28 as the date of the first Sydney sale of the new clip and they will offer no more than 1,450,000 bales prior to Christmas. Strange to say, in Australia where the grade of wool is uniform and the shrinkage is much more uniform than in our own United States, 90 to 95 per cent of the wool is marketed through recognized commission merchants situated at the sea-board markets, while here where we have all grades, all types and, perhaps, the greatest variation in shrinkage of any country in the world, the growers, for the most part, attempt to place the grade, shrinkage, and value on their own clip. It is doubtful whether a steady, uniform domestic market could be established in our own country so long as the bulk of the growers attempt to sell their own wool. Australians are experts in the production of wool, for wool is their main source of revenue, and they are expert enough to leave the marketing of their wool to experts in that line; neither do they force their wool on an unwilling market. The only reason for the slight recession in our domestic market in the last two weeks is because the growers were forcing their wool on the market at too rapid a pace. Manufacturers and dealers are always ready and willing to average-down the cost of their inventory and many were able to do so in the last two weeks of June.

### *Trade Agreement with Australia Now Seems Unlikely*

Advice comes from Canberra, Australia, to the effect that Australian officials have just about abandoned the hope that a trade agreement with the United States may be negotiated any time soon. It is quite evident that the Australian wool growing fraternity had in mind quite an elaborate marketing program in the United States. The fact that the International Wool Secretariat, which has tremendous financial backing, have planned to spend about \$250,000 in the United States in wool promotion work, coupled with the fact that the Australian government has estab-



lished an elaborate wool exhibit at the World's Fair, indicates beyond a reasonable doubt that they have entertained high hopes of marketing a lot of wool in the United States. Now that the trade agreements are out of the way and our domestic wools are assured of the full protection of 34 cents per clean pound duty for some months, if not years, to come, the domestic growers should reap the full benefit of the promotional work done by the Australian and South African wool growing industry, and the domestic market from here on should be maintained right up to, if not above, foreign importing parity.

### *Scarcity of Medium Wools Strong Factor*

Medium wools still hold the limelight. Seldom if ever have we seen the farm states' wool, shorn from the Hampshires and Shropshires, gobbled up so quickly, and where it has all gone is a mystery to all concerned. Topmakers have taken a lot of the  $\frac{1}{4}$ -blood grade. Very little of the medium wool from the farm states has even been graded; it has gone direct from the country to the mills. Topmakers claim they are not able to get  $\frac{1}{4}$ -blood fleece wool fast enough to satisfy their customers for the  $\frac{1}{4}$ -blood top. A few have turned to territory medium grades because of their inability to secure sufficient volume in the fleece wool division. There seems to be a scarcity of medium wool the world over.

Values are back up to those prevailing six weeks ago. Wisconsin has been sold in the last few days at  $31\frac{1}{2}$  cents, delivered mill, Ohio and Michigan medium at 32 cents, average Missouri and New York about 31 cents delivered mill, while the semi-brights from the Northwest,  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{3}{8}$  graded together, are again commanding 27 cents. Territory  $\frac{1}{4}$ -blood is fetching 56 cents clean and territory  $\frac{3}{8}$ -blood is again approaching the 60 to 62-cent mark.

### *Short Sales Yet to be Filled*

We frequently hear an old axiom of the wool trade that no two years are ever alike. This year we have a new factor injected into the picture. In other market letters we have mentioned early sales made in February, March, and April of the 1939 clip for June and July delivery. The extent to which this short-selling was practiced has been a surprise to everyone in the wool trade. Many of the short sales have been covered, but it is equally certain that a large volume is yet to be filled. In fact, some of the largest commercial combing plants are now forced to revise their schedule, for the wool to be supplied on these short sales is not forthcoming. It has worked this way: A given merchant sells a certain topmaker two million pounds of wool from the 1939 clip at 61@62 cents clean for June and July delivery. The topmaker in turn contracts for the sale of the top to yarn spinners at 81@82 cents. This wool should have been delivered in May and June. The tops should be delivered in July. The spinner is calling for the tops, the top manufacturer is calling for the wool, and the dealer who sold short agreeing to deliver a good Class 3 wool is on the spot. He, of course, thought he hedged the transaction by buying futures on the Top Futures Exchange, believing at that time that if the wool cost him more, the

top futures he purchased would be worth more on the Exchange. This, however, did not work out, for the top futures market is just about where it was, or possibly a little lower, than when these sales were made. Nevertheless, those who sold short are expected to deliver and this is one factor that will prevent the wool market from going lower in the country if the growers will hold firmly. The merchants who are sold short will, for the most part, have to go out and get the wool regardless of the cost. It is understood, however, that a few of the manufacturers have made some kind of a compromise on the short sales. It is true that the excellent condition of the early shorn wool has worked to the decided advantage of those who sold the market short. The unusual light shrinkage was particularly in evidence in Nevada, northern part of Utah, West Slope, Colorado, (extremely light) and western Idaho. Some of these clips are said to have come in shrinking 2@3 per cent lighter than the estimated shrinkage upon which they were purchased.

### *Late Transactions*

Manufacturers are now picking over the early arrivals of the 1939 clip, selecting the lightest shrinking wools of the type desired. Whereas ten days ago many of the topmakers and manufacturers were talking 62-cent fine wool, they are now talking 64@65 cents and paying it. Seventy cents has been made where staple wool has been available, but so little is available outside of Ohio Delaine and twelve-months' Texas that it is rather deceiving to quote this market. The bulk of the territory fine wool comes in Class 4 and is quoted at around 65 cents clean. Half-blood territory has been sold at 62 cents, although a pile of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -blood graded here on the Street for staple, would probably command 65@66 cents.

Worthwhile sales have been made at country points. One of the most prominent is the sale of the Swan Company clip of Chugwater, Wyoming, consisting of 43,000 fleeces, by the National at  $23\frac{3}{4}$  cents net to the grower. Sales have been made quite generally over the West at values estimated to be around 62@65 cents clean landed Boston, according to the quality of the wool. Texas has largely been neglected for the last ten days.

The National is particularly well equipped to provide efficient marketing service for the 1939 clip. Now that the mills and the dealers have supplied their immediate needs, it would appear to be the part of wisdom to consign the balance of the clip to your own selling agency where it can be graded and prepared for mill consumption during the fall months. About 90 per cent of the wool clip is consumed within a radius of four hundred miles of Boston, so let us get it to consumption in the shortest and most efficient manner. With our reduced handling charges and efficient marketing organization we are equipped to furnish this service.

We quote below the table prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics here in Boston which, at the moment, appears to be a trifle on the high side of the market according to sales that have been made:

### Quotations on Graded Territory Wools — Week Ending Friday, June 30, 1939

	Boston Prices Scoured Basis	Grease Equivalents Shrink and Grease Equivalent	Based Upon Arbitrary Shrinkage Percentages (1) Shrink and Grease Equivalent	Shrinkage Percentages (1) Shrink and Grease Equivalent
Fine Combing (Staple)	\$.69- .71	(63%) \$.26- .28	(65%) \$.24- .25	(68%) \$.22- .23
Fine French Combing	.64- .67	(64%) .23- .24	(66%) .22- .23	(69%) .20- .21
Fine Clothing	.60- .62	(65%) .21- .22	(68%) .19- .20	(71%) .17- .18
½ Blood Combing (Staple)	.65- .67	(58%) .27- .28	(60%) .26- .27	(64%) .23- .24
½ Blood French Combing	.62- .64	(59%) .25- .26	(61%) .24- .25	(65%) .22- .23
½ Blood Clothing	.59- .61	(60%) .24- .25	(62%) .22- .23	(66%) .20- .21
¾ Blood Combing	.58- .60	(53%) .27- .28	(55%) .26- .27	(58%) .24- .25
¾ Blood Clothing	.54- .56	(54%) .25- .26	(56%) .24- .25	(59%) .22- .23
¼ Blood Combing	.54- .56	(50%) .27- .28	(52%) .26- .27	(55%) .24- .25
Low ¼ Blood	.53- .55	(45%) .29- .30	(47%) .28- .29	(50%) .27- .28
Common and Braid	.51- .53	(44%) .29- .30	(46%) .28- .29	(49%) .26- .27

(1) In order to present scoured basis prices in terms of greasy wools, scoured basis market prices have been converted to grease basis equivalents. Conversions have been made for various shrinkages representative of light, average, and heavy shrinking wools of the different length groups quoted.

## Wool Goods Markets Seasonally Slow

WITH clothing manufacturers and other users taking inventory, trading in most lines of wool textiles was rather slow the week ending July 8, according to the New York Wool Top Exchange Service. The section devoted to summer goods, however, was quite active, as buyers sampled the new lines of tropical worsteds and gabardines and prepared to lay down orders for the 1940 season. Spot business in regulation weight fall goods was at a standstill. A number of mills were closed over the holidays but planned to operate Saturday in order to make up some of the time lost.

"Since the first week in May, operations in wool goods mills, especially in the men's wear division, have been expanding, and indications are that the upturn will continue until well beyond Labor Day," says the Exchange Service. "Women's wear business started to flow in last week, with the result that plants making these goods started up additional machinery. Indications point to a sharp expansion in women's wear business and machinery activity over the next few weeks. A check-up of store stocks of clothing by a number of independent agencies revealed that inventories are extraordinarily light for this time of year and that most stores accumulated enough cash through successful sales of spring and summer clothing to anticipate a larger

percentage of their fall requirements than has been customary at this period.

"Most men's wear mills were preparing to open lines of tropical worsteds this week, and it was understood that some of the larger buyers who cater to the southern market have already placed substantial commitments. Gabardines were actively sampled, and initial business was termed satisfactory. Sales of gabardines in the year ending July 1 were the largest in any year in the history of the industry. Business in fall worsteds was slow, for the reason that a number of mills have virtually sold up their output while many clothing manufacturers have covered from 75 to 80 per cent of their normal needs. If fall clothing business should come up to expectations, it is quite probable that the brisk demand for heavy worsteds will persist through the months of September and October and that makers of serges and oxford mixtures will be the main beneficiaries.

"The outlook for women's wear improved, as garment manufacturers placed orders on a wide variety of fabrics. The Industrial Council of Cloak, Suit, and Skirt manufacturers, in a bulletin to the trade, stated during the week, 'There has been sufficient activity on fall coats and suits up to this time to give solid ground for the belief that, so far as volume is concerned, the downward trend that has been in such discouraging evidence during the last few years will not be experienced during the coming season.'"

## Country Wool Sales

SALES of wool in the West abated during the month of June, with most of the activity in Wyoming, according to reports.

In that state, around 240,000 fleeces were reported purchased at 19 to 24 cents. However, only three sales were listed below 20 cents. The 24-cent top was paid for 4500 fleeces of the Brandley Sheep Company at Kemmerer, Wyoming, late in the month, and 23¼ cents bought the clip of the Swan Land and Live Stock Company of Chugwater and also 6000 fleeces from J. Burns of Sheridan.

Fifty-seven thousand fleeces were taken in Idaho at 20 to 23½ cents.

In Oregon sales of around 50,000 fleeces were reported as made between 20¼ to 23¾ cents. The Roseburg pool of approximately 200,000 pounds, brought 27 cents a pound on June 24.

As high as 24¼ cents was paid in Washington during the month on a part of the wools in the McKenzie-Richardson sale, but most of the wools in that state were cleaned up at 17 to 20 cents for fine wools and 19 to 22½ cents for crossbreds.

Transactions in Texas were very light; wools sold early in the month largely at 24 to 25½ cents.

At the sealed bid sale conducted by the Bond-Baker Wool Warehouse at Roswell, New Mexico, approximately one million pounds of wool was sold at 18½ to 21½ cents.

# With the Women's Auxiliaries

## PRIZE-WINNING ESSAYS ON WOOL

*The Ashley Chapter of the Utah Auxiliary sponsored an essay contest on wool early last November as a part of their activities during Wool Week. When this activity was reported in the January Wool Grower, we promised to print the two prize essays later. We have been delayed in doing this until this month as our regular space has been used each month in covering auxiliary meetings.*

*Over two hundred high school students took part in the wool essay contest and out of a selected 27 essays, two were awarded prizes of \$5 each, donated by the Ashley Wool Growers Association and the Ashley Auxiliary. The winners were Voit Roper and Lucile Bodily.*

## What the Sheep Industry Means to Uintah Basin

By VOIT ROPER

THE sheep industry is one of the largest, oldest and most important industries in the Uintah Basin. For many years the sheepmen of this area have been trying to produce a better type of sheep in order to produce better wool and better lambs for the markets.

By doing this they aid the people as a whole, they help to build up and better the community in which they live and better themselves by putting products on the market which will sell easily and which will bring the highest prices.

When people buy woolen goods they want the best that they can get to suit their needs. If they are buying mutton they also want meat that is of the very best kind. If the sheepmen build up their herds they will serve the public by giving them the kind of quality that they want in such products at prices they can pay.

In helping the community they build homes that help in the appearance of the community. Sheepmen also have farms upon which they raise feed for their sheep. They build these farms up so that they are also a credit to the community. Men who have large herds of sheep have to buy hay, grain and other products from the local farmers to feed their sheep in the winter, thus aiding the farmer by taking much of the surplus produce.

Larger returns to the sheepmen mean larger returns to the local merchants. Most of the sheepmen do their buying at the local stores for their camps and they also hire herders from their com-

munity which keeps the money within the area.

The government aids in the sheep industry by having good roads built to the ranges so that men can go to their herds in automobiles and thus carry on their business more efficiently.

New roads benefit not only the sheepmen but many other people, such as men doing mountain work in the timber and people just taking pleasure trips through the mountains. They can travel these roads without difficulty and danger.

Springs are developed and reservoirs constructed so that sheep may have water without going long distances. This adds to the beauty of these places and also helps in the growth of vegetation.

Intensive grazing also has a negative effect on the ranges. When sheep are first taken to a new range they naturally eat the green leaves of the plants first. This will stunt the growth of the plant if it does not have a chance to build up again, and may kill the plant, especially in dry years is harm noticed. But through proper cooperation of the sheepmen and by certain laws these problems are handled in a way that they will be of the most benefit to the range.

By these examples we can plainly see that the sheep industry is one of the most important industries in the Uintah Basin.

Material for this department should be sent to the National Press Correspondent, Mrs. Emory C. Smith, Fruitland, Utah.

## Fuzzy's Education

By LUCILE BODILY

ALL the sheep were in an uproar. Fuzzy Fleece had refused to grow any more wool. She said there was no sense in doing such a silly thing. Something must be done immediately; or none of the younger generation would raise any wool; and that would be a terrible calamity.

A wise old sheep, Grandma Wooley Ewe, was finally chosen to try and convince Fuzzy Fleece that raising wool was necessary and worthwhile.

The next day she went to call on Fuzzy. After inquiring after her health, she said, "Fuzzy, has anyone ever explained just how important wool is in the modern world?"

"Why, no, not a thing," answered Fuzzy.

"Well," began Grandma Wooley, "I'd like to tell you the story of the importance of wool."

"Wool is used in some way by every person every day. This seems incredible, but nevertheless it is true. Wool is used in the home for rugs, blankets, mattresses and many other things. Every one who rides in an automobile uses the wool which has been placed in the upholstering. But perhaps the most important use of wool is for clothing. Men's suits, sweaters, etc., are usually made of this important fabric. Every woman has a number of wool and part wool garments in her wardrobe. And the school girl! Well, Fuzzy, come along with me on a little trip and let's see if we can catch a glimpse of a typical school girl's wardrobe. Ah, first of all we see some hats and caps. The caps she wears for outdoor sport are lovely; and yes, see this label, that shows they're pure wool. The scarfs she wears with them are gaily colored and of the same fabric. There are some wool skirts and sweaters that she wears for school. She varies the sweaters with an occasional rayon blouse. And over there are some one piece dresses. Over half of them are all wool and



they are made into charming and distinctive styles. Her two appropriate coats are also made of wool. She also owns several pair of wool hose to wear for outdoor play.

"And now, Fuzzy, let's you and I listen in on a conversation taking place between the girl and her friend."

"Mary and I selected clothes which were marked all wool."

"But why? Aren't other fabrics just as good?"

"Oh no, indeed. In my estimation there are none which can equal wool. In the first place wool is long wearing. If you have to wear a dress for two or three seasons, you want something which will still look good at the end of the wearing. Wool articles do. Any other material would fall to pieces or begin to look thread-bare, shiny, faded, have ravelly edges, pulled out seams, and would not hold a press. No matter how old and worn wool is, it will hold a press and will wrinkle less easily than any other fabric. Best of all, wool is one of the easiest fabrics to clean. It can be sponged off at home and sent to the cleaners once in a while for a thorough cleaning. Wool is one of the warmest fabrics known, but I use it in my summer wardrobe as well as winter. Wool can be spun, woven, and made into thin light, cool, smartly styled summer clothes which seem to keep out summer heat.

"So you see I use wool clothing the year round; and that, I think, is the reason you say I'm the best dressed girl in our crowd."

"And so," ended Grandma Wooley as she rose to go, "you see, Fuzzy, wool raising is not a useless task."

"Thank you, grandma, for your story. It has certainly made me change my mind, and never again will I say that I shall raise no more wool."

## OREGON

### Baker County No. 2

**P**RESIDENT Mrs. Wm. Payton presided at the May meeting of the Baker County Chapter held at the home of Mrs. Ira Staggs. Mrs. Fred Phillips acted as assisting hostess and twenty-two members and guests enjoy-

ed a delicious luncheon served by the hostesses.

The meeting was a social one only, no new business being discussed. Mrs. Payton reported on the meat demonstration held in Baker a few weeks ago. Although but a small crowd attended, the demonstration was a success and many new ideas were given for the preparation of meats and vegetables for cold storage.

The June meeting held by the Baker Chapter was a most interesting one. Miss Minnie Moura and Mrs. Joe Moura entertained the auxiliary with a luncheon at the Antlers Grill after which the ladies gathered at the Moura home for the regular meeting.

Plans were made for assisting in the Fat Lamb Show to be held July 15. We plan to sell Lambburgers. Mrs. Ira Staggs was appointed to assist the judge in awarding the \$5.00 prize offered by the auxiliary. Fred Hill, assistant county agent, was the guest speaker for the afternoon and addressed the group on the lamb show which is to be held soon.

Grace Spence, Corresponding Sec'y.

## Only One Government Rehabilitation Program

**T**HE Farm Security Administration has recently written that "a group of individuals in Salt Lake City is collecting a registration fee of one dollar each from farmers in that section on the representation that they will initiate a farm rehabilitation program," for which government aid will be obtained.

"The only rural rehabilitation program sponsored by the federal government," the Farm Security Administration writes, "is that administered by the F.S.A. The individuals sponsoring the program referred to above have no connection with this agency. Further there is no requirement that a registration fee accompany the application for rehabilitation assistance."

Farmers are advised, if they need assistance from the Farm Security Administration, to apply to the local Rural Rehabilitation Supervisor in the county in which they reside.

## Progress in Shrinkage Tests Of Growers' Clips

(Continued from page 18)

Clip No. 3—7,649 Fleeces, or 204 Bags

GRADE	Per Cent of Grades by Weight			
	Entire Clip	10 Bags	Every 10th Bag	Composite Bag
Fine	80.0	80.0	77.7	80.1
½ Blood	17.8	17.5	19.5	19.9
⅓ Blood	2.0	1.9	2.3	0.0
¼ Blood	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.0
All Grades	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

\*The composite bag was made up by selecting fleeces at equal intervals of time throughout shearing.

In this clip every 10th bag and 10 bags spaced throughout the clip gave representative results in proportions of grades. Again, the composite bag selected on the basis of time intervals did not give as good results.

In view of the results obtained on these three clips, it does not seem to make so much difference in obtaining representative results in proportions of the different grades whether every 10th bag or 10 bags spaced at intervals throughout the clip are selected. This method seems to give just as good results as making up 10 bags from fleeces selected at equal space intervals. It seems, however, from these three clips that the use of less than 10 bags of wool does not give as representative results as the other two methods.

The three tests at the mills this year indicate first that the small samples were representative of the sublots, but the sublots were not wholly representative of the entire clip. However, the expectation in these cases is that the samples from the subplot will be within 2 per cent of the shrinkage of the entire lot.

The tests on the grading of every fleece in a clip indicate that every 10th bag or every 10th fleece gives representative results in comparison with the entire clip in respect to the per cent of grades.

# The Lamb Markets

## Kansas City

THE June lamb market closed in practically the same price position as May, with choice spring lambs quotable at \$10.25, shorn old-crop lambs \$8.50 and shorn fed yearlings \$7.50. However, there was this difference, the new-crop lambs drew a straight lamb classification, old-crop lambs were actually yearlings and the yearling class had taken on two-year-old type. Relatively at least, on the age basis, old-crop lambs and the yearling classes actually showed a net gain.

At the outset new-crop lambs brought \$10.25 and in the next three days recorded a \$10.35 top. Before the close of the second week in June there was a break of 75 to 85 cents that depressed the top to \$9.50, but from there on there was an irregular advance that uncovered a \$10.40 top on the 22nd, a slight setback in the next two days and a subsequent rally that brought a \$10.25 close.

In the old-crop lamb division June started with an \$8.25 price, fell nearly \$2.00 in the first ten days and then rebounded to the \$8.25 mark before the close. At the low point shorn yearling classes sold at \$6 down, but they made a vigorous rally in the last half of the period to sell in a \$7 to \$7.50 range.

Old fat ewes uncovered a downward price trend in the first half of the month but regained part of the loss later. The net decline for the month was 50 cents. On the close best fat ewes brought \$3.25 to \$3.50, with plain kinds at \$2.25 to \$2.75. At the low spot good fat old ewes sold at \$2.50 to \$2.85.

While June prices this year were higher than in the corresponding month last year the market was not so high as had been anticipated. Receipts were unusually light, quality and finish were generally lacking and the run carried a good many new-crop lambs that had lost their milk-fat bloom and had been short fed with varied

## Comparative Prices Live and Dressed Sheep and Lambs

### CHICAGO AVERAGE LIVE LAMB PRICES

Week Ended:	July 1, 1939	June 24, 1939	July 2, 1938
Spring Lambs:			
Choice <sup>1</sup> .....	\$ .....	\$ .....	\$ 9.12
Good and Choice .....	10.02	10.12	8.72
Medium and Good .....	9.09	9.31	7.98
Common .....	8.12	8.42	6.91
Ewes:			
Good and Choice .....	3.03	2.92	3.25
Common and Medium .....	2.20	2.18	2.50

### NEW YORK AVERAGE WESTERN DRESSED LAMB PRICES

Choice—All weights .....	\$21.85	\$22.00	\$19.10
Good—All weights .....	20.65	21.00	17.90
Medium—All weights .....	18.95	18.75	15.90
Common—All weights .....	16.90	16.50	14.10

<sup>1</sup>Closely Sorted

degrees of success in offsetting traces of their drought setback. Texas came through with grass fat lambs that were far from well conditioned and various feeding sections contributed old-crop, short-fed lambs that were much below the average of the full winter-fed lambs. Native new-crop lambs, which made up the bulk of the month's supply, did not begin to show attractive finish until around the middle of the month and then demand for them strengthened.

The dressed lamb and wool trade during June, though not brisk, was relatively better than the lamb market, at least price fluctuations were less pronounced and there was little or no congestion in outlet channels.

The July supply will be largely native lambs, but that movement will probably taper off early in August. Texas will have few lambs or grass-fat sheep to offer and western range lambs will be in limited supply until the middle of August. Because of these condi-

tions the trade opinion is that the July run will be as much below normal as the June supply.

The Central West at the end of June is in the best condition, as far as pastures and crops are concerned, in more than ten years. There is a large hay crop. Corn is off to a good start and making rapid growth and sorghum crops give promise of being large. It looks as if enormous feed crops will be available for the coming winter feeding season, a condition that should make for large demand for feeding lambs this fall. The Kansas City June rainfall was the largest on record and the erstwhile dust bowl of southwest Kansas, western Oklahoma and the Panhandle of Texas has had abundance of moisture. The feeds these sections produce, if marketed, will have to be handled through livestock. The corn belt proper has an unusually large carryover of old-crop corn so it is reasonable to anticipate an active feeding season next winter.

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**Yearling Ewes**  
 Smooth, well-grown whitefaces.  
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 DENFIELD, ONTARIO, CANADA

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 Prefer lots of two to twenty double-deck car-  
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 How many, what kinds have you for sale;  
 what price immediate shipment?  
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 80 range rams, all big, smooth  
 yearlings, for sale.  
 Will also have entries in the National  
 Ram Sale.  
**VOYLE BAGLEY**  
 GREENWICH, UTAH

June receipts were 91,472, a decrease  
 of 72,782, or 44 per cent and one of  
 the largest decreases from May volume  
 ever reported. Also the June run was  
 the smallest in the sixth month of any  
 year since 1908. Receipts in the first  
 six months were 713,953, compared  
 with 827,571 in the same period 1938.

C. M. Pipkin

## Ogden

**T**HE forced movement of lambs from  
 the northwest territories caused by  
 drought conditions was checked some-  
 what by several general rains through-  
 out that country, and resulted in less  
 movement than was anticipated during  
 the fore part of the month of June.  
 However, this improvement in range  
 condition did not come soon enough to  
 prevent the counting of more of the  
 sheep from Idaho and Oregon than in  
 the same month last year, this year's  
 figure being 167,686 compared to 152,-  
 856 during June one year ago. The  
 underweight lamb of six weeks ago is  
 being supplanted by the well-fattened  
 range lamb which this market is ac-  
 customed to receive from the north-  
 western ranges. There has developed  
 a strong market for feeding lambs  
 throughout the midwest feed lots, as  
 growing conditions continue good in  
 the corn belt and late summer should  
 bring a good demand for these western  
 feeders. Orders are now being placed  
 in volume for the supply moving to  
 market.

The enthusiasm of slaughterers for  
 the early supply of spring lamb died  
 out after the opening of the month of  
 June, dropping from the \$10.25 price  
 on the first day of the month to \$8.75  
 just one week later, a loss of \$1.50.  
 From this low point, however, the mar-  
 ket recovered and leveled off at around  
 \$9.50 to \$9.25 at the midpoint of the  
 month, and finished off at \$9.25 for the  
 choice animals. Feeders did not move  
 out in volume, those selling changing  
 hands at around \$7.50 at first and mov-  
 ing up to \$7.90 at the close of the  
 month. Old ewes found a ready market  
 at Ogden, selling all the way from  
 \$2.10 to \$3.50 a hundredweight, de-  
 pending on quality.

Receipts from Idaho for the month  
 were 150,951, showing a substantial in-  
 crease over June of 1938 when 127,383  
 were counted. Receipts from Oregon  
 were 16,735, from Utah 4,114, from  
 California 2,350, from Nevada 713 and  
 Montana had 836, a total altogether  
 of 175,810. Last year's June total  
 from all states showed 170,377. Lambs  
 purchased for slaughter were shipped  
 out to points ranging from Los Angeles  
 to Chicago during the month, with the  
 interior slaughtering points located in  
 Minnesota and Iowa getting the bulk  
 of these killing lambs.

Feeder shipments should become  
 quite active during July, as is the case  
 generally when feeding conditions are  
 good. The large percentage of those  
 being shipped in June moved out to  
 Illinois and Iowa points.

Dudley F. Estes

## Omaha

**A** MARKED slump in prices of  
 practically all classes of sheep  
 and lambs during early June more than  
 matched later gains. Fat ewe prices  
 held their own, and a quarter was the  
 extent of the drop in the feeder mar-  
 ket, but otherwise the decline was 75c  
 @ \$1.25.

The month's run was about 111,000  
 head, largest for any June since 1934,  
 but 45,000 fewer than came during  
 May.

The killer supply consisted, for the  
 most part, of fed lambs, Idahos and  
 natives, with California grass lambs  
 filling out the moderate run. Native  
 lambs offered probably the best basis  
 for comparison of prices, for they came  
 in good numbers and were at least as  
 uniform in quality and condition as any  
 other lambs. The natives bulked at  
 \$9.65 on June 30, as compared with  
 \$10.25 paid at the end of May. Buyers  
 were sorting the natives more closely  
 at the end of June.

Many large shipments of Idahos  
 came, and practically all included a  
 fair share not suitable for immediate  
 kill. Some western growers believe  
 that the Idahos coming on the market  
 will show a gradual improvement in  
 condition as the summer moves along.  
 The drop during early June was due



mainly to a slump in the dressed trade. Since then, the dressed markets have come back, though they are not up to the levels of May, and if this recovery is held live markets should have more or less stability during July. If receipts continue to show their usual seasonal fluctuations, markets should not be overburdened during July. On the other side of the balance are wool prices which continue unsatisfactory, and the fact that summer months show lessened consumption of meat.

During June the feeder lamb market moved in line with the killer trade, though fluctuations were less marked. Top for the month and final quotation for choice lambs by the load was \$8.75. Two factors, at least, give indication of what feeder markets may do between now and fall. The general profitability of feeding operations last season has made corn belt farmers more optimistic about the future, and pointing toward a chance to express their optimism in action is a crop outlook that is good. The spread between feeder lamb and fat lamb prices was less than a

dollar at the end of June, and if the feeder market is not overburdened by numbers in coming weeks, the spread may grow even narrower.

Sheep formed a negligible part of the killer supply by the end of the month. Fat yearling wethers, the fat lambs of May, sold about \$1.00@1.25 lower for the month. The fat ewe market stayed practically steady, at \$3.00 down, all month.

Ray Burley

## Denver

JUNE receipts totaled 149,040 head, as compared to 135,096 for the same month last year, or an increase of 14,000, which was more than made up of increases from Idaho.

Most of the June receipts came from Idaho with 121,000 head. Other states showing increases were Colorado, Arizona, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. States showing decreases included California with 13,000 a year ago in June and none this year, and Oregon and Utah.

For the first half of 1939 a total of 887,772 head of sheep and lambs were received at Denver, as compared to 1,054,548 for the first six months of 1938, or a decrease of 166,776 head. Increases this year were noted from the states of Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming. Decreases of 163,000 appeared from Colorado and 135,000 from California, with slight decreases from Oregon and Utah.

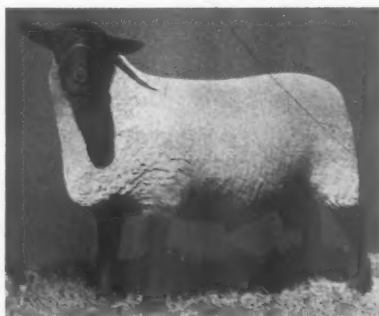
A total of 438,000 head had been received from Colorado's ranges and feed lots up to July 1 this year. Other states sending substantial numbers were Idaho with 163,000, California 130,000, Wyoming 53,000, Arizona 32,000, Utah 23,000, Texas 21,000, New Mexico 11,000, and Oregon 7,500.

As Idaho receipts made up the bulk of supplies of salable lambs in June at Denver, the range of prices will largely be based on lambs from that state.

Closing June prices were 70 cents per hundred under the opening—\$10.30 top being paid for Idahos on June 1 and \$9.60 on June 30. The high spot

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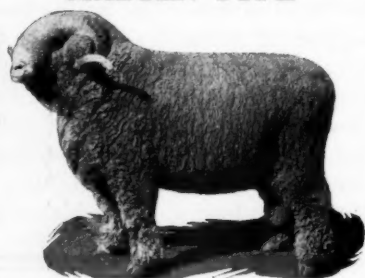
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of the month was on June 2 when a peak for the month of \$10.60 was reached—and lows of \$9.00 for best Idahos were paid on both June 7 and 12, making an extreme spread between the high and low time of \$1.60 per hundred.

From the first three days of June when Idahos cleared between \$10@10.60, prices dropped the following week to \$8.65@9.15. On Tuesday, June 13, a rise in prices took place which lasted most of the remainder of the week, with some ups and downs being experienced from \$9.25@9.85 from June 16 to 21.

On June 22 another spurt in prices took place to where best Idahos sold at \$10; however from that time on the remainder of the month saw some weakness to where \$9.40@9.75 was taking the best of them. Medium grade rangers and ranch lambs cleared mostly from \$8.65@9.

A few cars of Oregon lambs sold in June from \$8.50@9.75, and a few Utah springers at \$9.40@9.50.

Receipts of Colorado lambs and those from surrounding states were largely confined to truck-ins, with the exception of one car of San Luis Valley lambs received on June 29 and selling at \$9.75. Truck-ins, usually from southern Colorado valleys, continually topped the market from \$9.40@10, the first half of the month, and from \$9.65@9.90 the last half.

From one to a few cars of Idaho feeding lambs were sold almost daily at from \$7.75 to \$8.65 the first half of June, and from \$8@8.50 the last half. These were taken largely by Nebraska, Iowa, Indiana and Wisconsin feeders.

Clipped lambs during June sold from \$7@7.50, and yearlings from \$5.75@7.

Ewes were confined to odd lots contained in western carload shipments, and to truck-ins. This class of stock increased in value as the month progressed—selling from \$2@2.65 the first half of June, and from \$2.25@3.40 the last half. Yearling ewes sold at \$5.

Around 33,000 head of fat lambs were purchased in June for shipment to interior Iowa and Atlantic Coast, or a third of the total sales of all fat sheep

and lambs made on the market. For the first six months this year 276,000 head were bought for shipment to these areas.

One fourth of all fat sales made on the market, or 25,200 head, were slaughtered locally. For the first half of 1939 total slaughter by Denver packers was 177,000.

R. C. Albright

**St. Joseph**

**R**ECEIPTS for the month of June were 67,267 compared with 96,129 in May and 62,813 in June a year ago. Of the month's total 12,400 were from Texas, 2,976 from Idaho, and the remainder were mostly natives from Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. Compared with a month ago, lamb prices are around 25 cents lower with best natives on the close at \$10. Idaho shipments during the month were scattered, none being received the last week. Sales earlier in the month ranged \$8.25@9.50, with choice grades quoted around \$9.75 on the close. No western feeders were offered during the month, but such kinds were quoted \$8.50@8.75 on late days. Aged sheep values show little change with a month ago. On the close fat ewes were quoted up to \$3.25, with most sales \$2.50@3. Texas yearlings on the close sold \$7@7.25, twos \$5.50@5.75, and old wethers \$4@4.25.

H. H. Madden

**Chicago**

**I**N CONFORMITY with custom, the fat lamb market ran into a June break, but nothing disastrous developed. It was an off-again-on-again market, recalling the Finnegan's handcar episode.

A capricious dressed market coupled with a fluctuating supply was responsible for periodical fluctuations. At intervals killers were under the necessity of buying for numbers whereupon they took something off; on reduced supplies they put it back. A few \$11 trades in natives may be ignored, but a large proportion of the springers sold in a \$10@10.50 range. Old croppers, minus wool, ran out, closing the

season on an \$8@8.60 basis. The dressed market digested considerable trash, although a swelling supply from Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia relieved trade needs late in June when along came Missouri, filling the hopper at St. Louis, whence the lambs were forwarded to Chicago to replenish bare coolers. Supply and demand were fairly well balanced, a highly satisfactory market developing. Supply of natives was meager, as farm-grown lambs reveled in feed and were held to make growth.

At current quotations nobody on the selling side of the fat market is a rampant bull. Killers are bent on depressing prices, although June's deficient supply upset their program. Lamb over the retailer's counter is high; consequently vendors are not pushing it and chain stores are eliminating it from their week-end advertising, as their pork rake-off furnishes incentive to crowd that meat into the consumer lap. Storage poultry owners are unloading, as a new crop of avian food is only a few weeks away and fish is cheap. Tons of Long Island ducks, fed on corn hauled from Ohio, flood retail markets in every urban center in the Middle West, restaurant operators featuring it on their menus. Taking one thing with another, dressed lamb trade is equal to a creditable performance.

A short fat end on the northwestern lamb crop will be atoned by a big cornbelt and eastern crop. Cross-road markets in the Ohio Valley and farther east have recently relieved eastern dressed markets of any semblance of scarcity. This supply, practically raised on free grass when government rentals are reckoned with, is highly profitable, which accounts for current expansion. Spring lambs are producing an enormous aggregate annual revenue in Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, both Virginias and Maryland. This season's returns have been highly remunerative, as they fitted into a supply gap created by California and Texas delinquencies.

The summer and fall fat lamb market promises to be as changeable as a stop-and-go light, without synchronization. Pelt values favor growers, as buyers' credits have been raised re-

cently, standing at \$1.10 per hundred live weight of the animal against 85 cents at the corresponding period of 1938. What may develop in the fat lamb market during July and August is anybody's guess; New York's fair has been a distinct disappointment so far as lamb consumption is concerned, that glorified state fair featuring "hot dogs," which derived advertising of incalculable value when Mrs. Roosevelt featured them at the Hyde Park picnic to British royalty.

Between natives and eastern lambs, killers are confident of an adequate summer and fall supply as both crops will be large. Energy is behind the farm flock. In June Chicago pulled off a native lamb show at which 50 cents per pound was paid for the champion, the rest of the exhibit averaging \$12.02 per hundred. This was a 4-H Club and Future Farmer event with outstanding merit. Similar efforts to stimulate lamb production are in evidence everywhere, the seed falling on productive soil. Farm flocks, diminished years ago by the Wilson tariff in Cleveland's time, are playing a return engagement, the new generation having acquired the faculty of intelligent breeding and feeding, which accounts for a \$10@10.50 June market.

Contracting new-crop lambs in the Northwest at \$7@7.25; straight across in May, subsided in June, speculators cooling off and growers standing pat. Late in June one band of 20,000 Montana lambs changed hands, the buyer getting only the feeder end as the grower retained fats and ewes. Potential purchasing capacity is in evidence, however, and will be manifested in August and September. Stock cattle are in such a lofty price bracket that many farmer feeders announce an intention to switch to lambs; already a large number of shorn Texas yearlings are being installed in midwest pastures where they will grow sufficient wool to insure profit in the operation, as the feed they consume costs next to nothing. Calves are being contracted for October delivery on the southwestern breeding ground at \$9.75@10; at cornbelt sales 250 to 300-pound calves are "dollared off" at per head prices

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that mean around \$11 per hundred, so that lambs at \$8.50 have a distinct advantage. Clamor for western lambs to feed on contract churns the ambient atmosphere, but it is a case of nothing doing on that proposition. Only spot cash goes and there is plenty of it to absorb the crop. A bank deposit produces nothing; lambs or yearlings insure at least interest.

While superb physical conditions exist everywhere east of the Missouri River, the Northwest is less favorably situated, although the sheep area map is spotted. Below conditions of the corresponding period of 1938, certain favored sections will furnish well-conditioned lambs. Supplies from Idaho and Oregon during June were irregular, the movement starting ten days to two weeks behind regular schedules. Ogden, for instance, received 30 to 40 double decks one day; four or five the next. Early Idaho ranges went dry, forcing sheepmen to move flocks to higher altitudes in advance of the usual time. This has delayed the early marketward movement from lower spring pastures to summer range, upsetting the normal trend of supply. From July on, however, a normal movement is in sight.

Condition of northwestern lambs, including Montana, is below that of the corresponding period last year. Idahos arriving at Ogden have rarely reached 90 pounds, whereas a year ago the bulk averaged 90 pounds or more. Last year the bulk of early Idahos was sold straight to killers; sorting is necessary now. General conditions in the Northwest justify expectation of a change either way. Recent rains have improved grazing conditions, radically altering what promised to be a disaster. More moisture is needed, however, or feed will be short by midsummer. The proportion of fat lambs in the northwestern movement during August and September will exert a potent influence on the evaluation process. Other meats may be held in coolers for at least a brief period; highly perishable lamb must go over the retailer's block promptly.

So far as feeder lambs are concerned, apparently a market is made

around \$7 on the range, \$8.25 to \$8.50 at the markets. Stock cattle prices are firmly established with current and prospective supply below requirements, although spreads between fat and thin steers have narrowed recently. Cattle feeders are afraid of replacement cost, insuring a wide switch to lambs and such yearlings as Texas has concealed in its capacious sleeve. The strongest argument is that cash corn is far below the government loan price, which has been a flop if regarded as a pegged price, while lambs have paid far in excess of the loan figure for such corn as they consume. Cheap gains alone enabled feeders of distressed California lambs to get by, as they were laid in at suspicious prices. This added or deferred supply will be cleaned up during the next 30 days, the bulk of it having already vanished without seriously affecting fat lamb prices.

So far as an outlet for western feeding lambs is concerned the market is made, at least with respect to volume, which may be sufficiently large to insure heavy winter production. Many feeders will purchase 50 per cent of their season's requirements the moment lambs are available; deferring the remainder a few weeks to see how the cat jumps, meanwhile thus putting their eggs in two baskets.

J. E. Poole

## Government Lamb Report

**L**IGHTER supplies of lambs this summer were forecasted in "The Sheep and Lamb Situation" released by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on June 19.

The statement also said:

Slaughter supplies of sheep and lambs this summer may not be quite so large as last summer. The summer slaughter supply, however, will include a relatively large number of fed lambs from the early lamb crop that were not suitable for slaughter when they were marketed in the spring. The quality and finish of lambs marketed this summer will be lower than a year earlier as a result of the poor pasture and range conditions during the past spring.

Consumer demand for meats may improve moderately, or at least hold fairly steady, during the remainder of 1939. Prices of wool have advanced somewhat in

the past two months. Both of these factors should be strengthening influences to prices of live lambs.

After advancing moderately in early May, prices of spring lambs declined fairly sharply in late May and early June. The average price of good and choice spring lambs at Chicago for the week ended June 10 was \$9.75 compared with \$10.90 a month earlier and \$9.65 a year earlier. Prices of good and choice shorn lambs (old crop) did not change greatly during May but dropped sharply in early June. Prices of slaughter ewes declined seasonally in May and early June.

The number of sheep and lambs slaughtered under federal inspection during May totaled 1,392,000 head—14 per cent larger than in April but 10 per cent smaller than in May last year. The smaller slaughter in May than a year earlier reflects the reduced supplies of both spring lambs and grass fat yearlings.

The market movement of early lambs from California was practically completed by the end of May. The eastward movement of early lambs from California this year was nearly as large as the record movement of 590,000 head in 1935. A larger than usual proportion of the early lamb shipments from California went to feed lots. There was some movement of early lambs from Idaho in late May and early June, but relatively few native spring lambs had been marketed by early June.

The official estimate of the 1939 lamb crop will be released on July 27. Weather and feed conditions in most areas this year were less favorable for lambs than the unusually favorable conditions last year. The number of lambs saved per 100 ewes (one year old and over on January 1) in 1939 probably will be smaller than the record number saved last year. But this decrease in the percentage lamb crop will be offset, at least in part, by the increase in the number of breeding ewes on hand. The number

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of stock sheep on farms on January 1, 1939 was 3 per cent larger than a year earlier.

### Prospects for the 1939 Lamb Crop

Rains in late May and early June relieved the drought situation in most areas of the western and native sheep states. Pasture conditions on June 1 were the second lowest for that date on record. The shortage of pasture probably tended to check the growth of lambs in the native states. Supplies of hay and feed grains, however, are abundant in most areas, and native lambs probably made fair gains during May and early June.

Although conditions in the range states were improved by rains in late May, more moisture will be needed for a good growth of feed. The condition of ranges on June 1 was the third lowest for that date in the 16 years of record. The condition of lambs in the range states on June 1 was below average, but lambs were reported to be in fairly good shape in most areas. The weather was favorable for lambing during May, and a good late lamb crop is reported in most sections of the western sheep states.

Early lambs in Idaho, Oregon and Washington reflect the shortage of green feed, and a larger than usual proportion of these lambs will not reach slaughter condition and probably will be sold as feeders.

In the principal sheep area of Texas, where drought conditions had become severe by early May, summer range prospects were improved materially in late May by rains. Losses of lambs in Texas during the spring were heavier than a year earlier, and marketings of yearlings from that state got under way somewhat later than last year. The movement of yearlings from Texas in June and July is likely to be large. It is probable that a relatively large number of the yearlings and early lambs marketed from Texas this spring have been sold as feeders.

### The Wool Situation

The outlook for disposal of the 1939 domestic wool clip continues favorable. Prospects are for a fairly high level of domestic mill consumption in the next few months, although probably not so high as in the first quarter of this year. The trend of consumption in the late fall and winter will depend partly upon changes in business conditions in the second half of the year. The steady demand for wool in foreign markets and relatively small supplies in Southern Hemisphere countries should be strengthening factors in the domestic wool situation, at least until the new Southern Hemisphere clip becomes available in the fall.

### Sheep and Lamb Sales

TRADING in lambs, f.o.b. country points, was very limited the latter part of July, according to the government report for the week ending July 1. In southern Utah a few whitefaced

wether feeding lambs were reported contracted at \$6.50 per hundred and several lots of blackfaced, mixed fat and feeder lambs were contracted at \$7.50 a hundred. Little activity was reported for Wyoming, but growers are asking over \$7 per hundred for feeder lambs for fall delivery.

Montana sales of sheep and lambs, listed in the July News Letter of the Montana Association, include the following:

A string of blackfaced mixed lambs sold at Three Forks at 7½ cents; 6000 mixed lambs at Browning at 7 cents and another lot at 7 to 7½ cents; 1600 mixed blackfaced lambs at Lewiston and 1500 head of mixed blackfaced at Dillon at 7 cents.

Eleven hundred whitefaced, unshorn, three-year-old ewes with lambs at their sides purchased at Dillon at \$11 a pair, to go to Colorado; a string of two-year-olds in the wool sold at Townsend at \$9; good yearling ewes offered, some out of the shearing pen and some for fall delivery, at \$7.50 a head; some choice blackfaced yearlings are bringing \$8 or better.

### Feeder Outlook

INTENSE interest is concentrating in the annually recurring feeding lamb problem. Consensus of opinion is that \$7 on the range will be a popular price; \$8.25@8.50 at the central markets.

Last season's "strike" will not be repeated, in fact, a broad market could be developed on the basis indicated if the necessary supply were available. Chicago is not getting enough feeders to fill a one-seated buggy; St. Paul sent out the light end of its first consignment from Washington at \$8.50; at Denver it is an \$8@8.25 market and Omaha is quoting \$8.50.

Dame Nature has prepared a veritable banquet for the impending ovine host: Millions of acres of lush blue grass pasture approaching a stage where it will be highly nutritious; a prospect, if not certainty, of a big corn crop to be piled on top of a grist of old corn, for which there is scant precedent; small coarse grains galore and an unprecedented acreage of soy beans, not to speak of cribfulls of hay silage, a new development that promises to put corn silage on the scrap pile.

Unless "something happens," the corn crop insures another headache for the "planners," piling up on such Kat-



zenjammer cases as cotton, wheat and milk. This corn crop was generally fertilized, the bulk of the acreage is in "hybrid" and while the aforesaid acreage has been reduced, yields will atone for restriction.

Summer and fall gains on western lambs will be the cheapest in many a long day, putting the western breeder in strong strategic position. When a lamb can be conditioned for 5 cents a pound or less, feeders can put down bets that would be impossible otherwise and they have the necessary mazuma. Although a top-heavy fat cattle market cracked in June, stock cattle actually advanced so that lambs are an attractive proposition. Old corn is still selling far below the government loan figure, generating concern over disposal of the accumulation. A wealth of small grains, grass, roughage and silage has scant opportunity of finding a cash outlet unless fed to livestock, and hogs do not consume grass or roughage. Present indications are that any prospective increase in the feeder end of the western lamb crop will be readily absorbed as everybody in the game made money last winter and even the distressed end of this spring's California crop that hiked to feed lots all paid well for their board. This sets the 1939 stage with attractive scenery.

J. E. Poole

## Early Marketings of Idaho Lamb Pools

THE shipping of Idaho farm lambs to market was unusually heavy during May. E. F. Rinehart, extension animal husbandman of the University of Idaho, reported for June that returns on seven cooperative shipping associations of that state gave a total of 8559 lambs marketed during the month, of which 7949 or 93 per cent sold as tops, while the smaller immature lambs sold mostly as culls since there was little demand for feeders at the market.

The top lambs brought an average of \$8.71 per head on the market, and the sorts, \$6.61 per head. Two pools were sold at home during the month, one at \$8.00 with a 4 per cent shrink

and the other at \$9.10, with a 3 per cent shrink.

The majority of the lambs were creep-fed and most of them were a good market type.

The contracting of feeder lambs, which Mr. Rinehart reports as starting early this year, became very active the latter part of May at the following figures: \$7.50 for white-faced, cross-bred ewe lambs; \$6.50 to \$7.50 for straight wether lambs, the \$7.50 figure being given for black-faces. The only feeder lambs sold during the month were 379 head cut back from range shipments. They weighed 74 pounds and sold at \$9.50 per hundred.

## Lightweight Wool Fabric Presented to Grover Whalen

A SPECIALLY woven length of lightweight tropical worsted suiting material for warm weather wear was presented to Grover Whalen, president of the New York World's Fair, June 28, on behalf of the wool growers of New Zealand, Australia and South Africa.

The presentation, which took place at 11:30 o'clock in Mr. Whalen's office in the Administration Building, was made by L. R. Macgregor, Australian trade commissioner, R. M. Firth, New Zealand trade commissioner, and Emil Horn, consul for the Union of South Africa, acting for the wool growers of their respective countries.

In presenting the material, Mr. Macgregor said, "This material is the gift to you of the people of our countries. It brings with it their congratulations on the success of the New York World's Fair, and expresses their pleasure in participating in it."

The material, brought to this country by Captain Brown of the New Mauretania, which arrived on June 24 on her maiden voyage, is of specially woven Huddersfield cloth. It is a crisp handling pearl gray of plain weave, with fine narrow silk stripes in blue, white and black.

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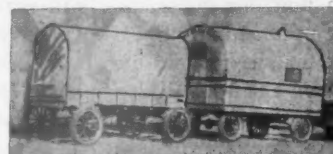
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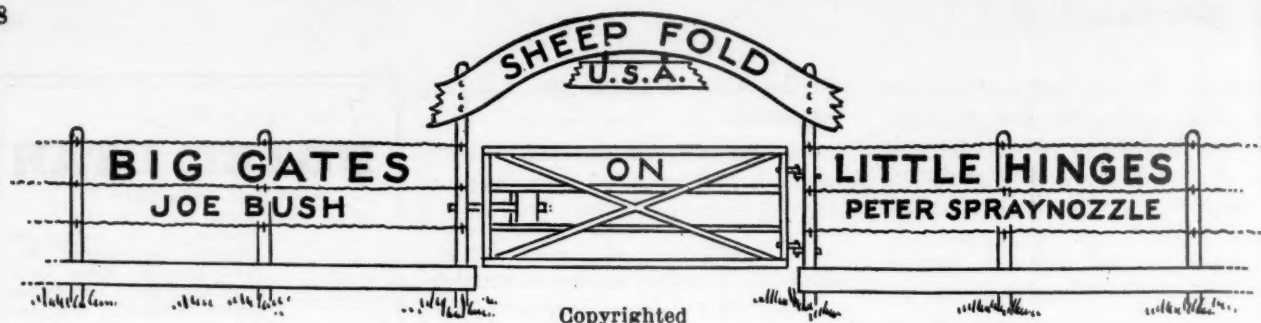
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For History of the Breed, List of Members, Pedigree Blanks, Etc., Address the Secretary.



AS we write this for our column in the July issue of the National Wool Grower, Joe Bush und me are far away from the Big Gates on Little Hinges, from the home range at Sheepfold. We are up here on the summer range where Joe runs his sheep, pinch-hitting for the herder und the camp-tender who are on a vacation, having a look-see at the San Francisco fair.

Up here Joe und me spent July 4th—Independence Day—and as I look about as I sit in the shade of a pine-tree thicket making notes for our column, I can see Joe Bush leading his horse, trailed by a couple of sheep dogs, as he follows his flock of range-rambling ewes about a quarter of a mile away. On a ridge to the south I can see a small herd of white-faced cattle, und while I don't see any at the moment, I know that not far away there are deer und elk.

Joe Bush says that up here we can celebrate our independence on this Independence Day as far as 1400 odd sheep und our conscience will permit. Und then when I check up on the commissions, committees und bureaus that check up on Joe und me, I wonder what we have to brag about on the 1939 Independence Day.

Up here we have the forest ranger; vid him we get along all right. At Sheepfold down in the valley we have the A.A.A., the N.Y.A., the C.C.C., the W.P.A., the H.O.L.C., the C.I.O., und the A.F.L. who step into the picture at shearing und lambing time. Und then there is the Farm Bureau, the Grange und the Farmers' Union, und each do a little herd riding on Joe und me. Und then there is always the tax commission who keep tab on us und vhat if anything, we make. The tax commission operate on a sort of "Benevolent Assimilation" plan. If we make a nickel they swat it vid an income tax; if we pass it over to one of the kids to spend for an ice cream cone, they hit it vid a token tax.

But Joe, who is very optimistic, says he can see a ray of light, a little let-up in the tax climb, und that is something. Joe reads in his paper that the subcommittee of the Ways und Means Committee of the House of Representatives, under recommendation No. 60, would abolish the tax on the more expensive furs, und the tax on seats in the Metropolitan Opera House has already been abolished. But if Mamma wants a wool dress made from the fleece of the ram, the lamb or the range-rambling ewe, or the children want to go to the state fair where the admission is 50 cents, they still have to pay a token tax.

So all in all, everything considered, a sheep camp on the summer range in the intermountain country is a good

place to spend Independence Day. Joe can tie his horse to a sapling by the side of the trail without paying for the privilege. He can even cross a game trail on the bias without being tooted back by a man vid a tin whistle.

Independence Day! Maybe we do find our inherited independence hobbled; even so would we trade our citizenship to live under some governments of which we know? In our state we may have thousands, in the nation millions, who are dependents, but we still have many more thousands, many more millions who are not dependents. Und I am sure that the field run of independent Americans are willing that the government should care (properly care, too) for those of our country who are so unfortunate as to be listed as dependent citizens. I believe that to be the spirit of America, a spirit to which we re-dedicate ourselves on each und every Independence Day.

This year many thousands of Americans will see western America for the first time, that is they think they see it as they scoot along over the hard-surfaced highways at 40-50-60 miles an hour, spend the night in a hotel or tourist camp, up at daylight und away to drive as long as physical endurance will permit.

I wish they could see the West I am looking at from our sheep camp as I write this column. Not even an echo of highway or railroad traffic can be heard und no city is to be seen from where we are. From here is nothing visible of the farming that we know is going on in the valleys of our state. Once in a while we see an airplane as it moves overhead, going east or west.

But we are not lonesome or isolated. We know when the news of the day is flashed over the radio, so we tune in und get the news of the world, of men who, for the moment, may be the rulers of republics, empires, kingdoms. They know nothing of Joe Bush und me Peter up here in a sheep camp, but we know about them, und when we look over the magnificent distance spread out before us, when the radio tells us of their ambitions to rule the world, looks like the movements of the most powerful are but a skirmish in the sight of God.

Someone has written it down that the groves were God's first temples, before man learned to hew the shaft und lay the ridge pole und spread the roof above him, before he framed the lofty vaults to gather und roll back the sound of anthems. There in the dusky wood amid the cool und silence of Nature's vast cathedral, man knelt down und offered up to God solemn thanks und supplications. Und in such a cathedral, Joe Bush und me spent Independence Day, July 4, 1939.

Peter Spraynozzle

## Mechanical Changes in Woolen and Worsted Industries

**A**N exhaustive study of the mechanical changes in the woolen and worsted industries from 1910 to 1936, recently completed by the Works Progress Administration in cooperation with the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, shows that improvement in machinery over that period has reduced by almost half the labor time required in the manufacture of equal amounts of comparable products.

The survey, undertaken in connection with the WPA National Research Project series of studies on Reemployment Opportunities and Changes in Industrial Techniques, is a companion piece to a similar review made in the cotton textile industry and was conducted by especially equipped research workers and statisticians taken from relief rolls.

Summarizing the findings, Boris Stern of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, economist in charge of the study, writes:

The effect of the utilization of the most advanced textile machinery on the market as compared with the most advanced machinery on the market in 1910 is to increase considerably the man-hour output in manufacturing the two woolen and the two worsted types of cloth covered by this survey. Barely half as much labor time would have been required in 1936 to produce a given amount of woolen and worsted cloth as was required with advanced technology in 1910.

For the departments covered in this study, the increase in possible man-hour output between 1910 and 1936 was 86.4 per cent in the manufacture of 32-ounce overcoating and 87.5 per cent in 12-ounce woolen flannel. (These were the two types of cloth studied in the woolen industry.) Among the worsted products (worsted serge and cotton-warp worsted-filled suitings), the increase in the man-hour output between 1910 and 1936 was 86.3 per cent in worsted serge and 87.5 per cent in cotton-warp worsted-filled suiting. As a result of this increased labor productivity, the man-hour requirements to produce an equal yardage of woven woolen and worsted cloth in 1936 showed a marked decline, averaging about 46.5 per cent for the two woolen

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and two worsted products covered by the study.

For the purposes of the survey of mechanical changes in the woolen and worsted industry, two types of woolen cloth and two types of worsted cloth were selected for the study, and for the purposes of presentation, two hypothetical groups of mills were assumed, one operating under conditions of 1910 and the other operating under conditions of 1936.

Among the departments in mills producing wool products, the largest increase in the output per man per hour made possible by machine developments between 1910 and 1936 occurred in blending and picking. This increase, due chiefly to the replacement of hand-blending as used in 1910 by a machine process used in 1935, amounted to 208 per cent in manufacturing 12-ounce woolen flannel and 237 per cent in manufacturing 32-ounce overcoating. Two machine tenders now do the work of 12 blenders in 1910, but, Mr. Stern points out, the blending and picking department employs comparatively few men and the large decrease in labor productivity did not result in as large a decrease in labor requirements as did smaller increases in productivity in the weaving, carding and spooling departments.

A very substantial proportion of the skilled workers employed in the mills, the survey disclosed, were affected by the increase in man-hour output in the weaving department, which averaged 101.9 per cent for the 12-ounce flannel and 112.7 per cent for the 32-ounce overcoating. It was in this department that more than half the reduction of labor time required throughout the mill was achieved.

This was brought about by the change from semi-automatic slow looms used in 1910 to high-speed automatic looms available in 1936. Back in 1910 one weaver operated but one loom in weaving 32-ounce overcoating and only two looms for 12-ounce woolen flannel. In 1936, the automatic looms made it possible for one weaver to tend three looms on 32-ounce overcoating, and

six or even more looms on 12-ounce woolen flannel.

To illustrate: in 1910 it would have been necessary to have 48 semi-automatic looms and 96 weavers, operating two 40-hour shifts, to weave 21,816 yards of 32-ounce overcoating in one week. In 1936, the same amount of identical cloth could be woven on 37

automatic looms requiring the attendance of only 26 weavers. These weavers in 1936 would be assisted by two more filling men than in 1910 and by six dropwire girls, an occupation that did not exist in 1910.

Significant mechanical advances also were reported for the spinning, twisting, and spooling and warping departments. Probably the most outstanding mechanical change affecting the production of yarn has been the replacement of the small bobbins or packages formerly used on the mule spinning frame for woolens, and cap spinning frame for worsteds, by the larger packages now used on the ring spinning frames.

While there have been no inherent changes in yarn-making processes, the larger package resulted in greatly reducing the amount of doffing required in 1936, as compared with 1910. In the spooling and warping departments, the increase in productivity resulted chiefly from the introduction of the larger packages and from the use of high speed automatic warpers to take the place of the slow process of spooling the yarn from small bobbins to jack spools and from the jack spools to the warper or dresser.

In recapitulation, the survey showed that:

In the woolen industry, 26 weavers, four filling men and six drop-wire girls, using the automatic looms, could weave the same amount of 32-ounce overcoating that in 1910 required 96 weavers and two filling men, while in the manufacture of 12-ounce flannel the change was from 80 weavers in 1910 to 22 weavers assisted by six drop-wire girls in 1936.

In the worsted industry, 400 weavers, 34 loom fixers and 8 cleaners required in 1910 to produce a given amount of worsted serge could be replaced in 1936 by 112 weavers, 28 loom fixers and 12 cleaners. In the manufacture of worsted-filling suiting, the 250 weavers, 28 fixers, 8 cleaners and two smash hands required in 1910 could be replaced in 1936 to produce the same amount of cloth by 68 weavers, 22 fixers, 12 cleaners and four smash hands.

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